

## Nurses again walking out this morning

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### Indirect talks with Jordan

## Confident Peres tells Knesset of achievements

By DVORAH GETZLER  
Post Knesset Reporter

To govern means to convince. Premier Peres said yesterday, quoting his own words on taking office 25 months ago, and going on to spell out to a specially convened Knesset session his own record in persuading the nation and the world that his national unity government had ruled effectively.

It was probably his last appearance as prime minister before the present Knesset. But his was no swan song. It was a song of pride in achievement against odds.

And the odds had included endless sniping from the right of his coalition. The withdrawal from Lebanon had not gone unopposed. And without the cooperation of the Histadrut, for which he appeared to take personal credit, the economic recovery programme could not have succeeded.

Peres took a mild swipe at the Likud: his style of government, he said, had been one in which Israel

But before that, a confident premier pointed to defused social tensions, to revived international goodwill, to an economy that was recovering from a deep malaise, to a fall in unemployment.

On the peace front, Peres said, the door had been opened, the U.S. was mediating between Jordan and Israel for negotiations.

The peace with Egypt had been secured. The Taba problem had been solved and the Alexandria summit had been a new peak in bilateral relations with Egypt, as had the return of the Egyptian ambassador.

He referred to the summit meeting between him and Morocco's King Hassan as having shown that there was an Arab camp that knew how to respond courageously to Israel's overtures.

The record was even better in relations with the U.S. and there were signs of the start of a dialogue with the Soviet Union.

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had been able to demonstrate power without "boastfulness and shows of strength, but by creating a network of open relationships."

He was listened to in total and seemingly respectful silence — there was no heckling from any quarter. That came later, when he replied to the long roster of critical speeches.

### Peres to Paris today

Prime Minister Peres leaves today for France, his last visit abroad as premier before rotation.

During his 36-hour stay he is due to meet with President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, and will take part in a festive dinner at Versailles to mark the 100th anniversary of Ben-Gurion's birth.



Prime Minister Peres addressing the Knesset yesterday. (Beaman/Media Images)

## \$1b. solar energy deal concluded

By BERNARD JOSEPHS  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A deal worth nearly \$1 billion — more than half of it in exports from Israel — has been signed between a Jerusalem-based solar energy company and one of America's biggest power corporations. It was announced last night.

Luz International, whose production plant is at the Har Hahotzvim high-tech industrial park in Jerusalem, is to build 12 sun-powered

electricity-generating stations in California over the next six years under a contract signed with Southern California Edison Company (SCEC).

It is one of the biggest solar energy deals ever and, says Luz, makes the company a world leader in the field.

The contract comes against the background of a major effort by the Energy Ministry to boost solar energy research as a long-term answer to.

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## Little excitement as government criticized

By DVORAH GETZLER  
Post Knesset Reporter

There was no open national debate on Israel's new cabinet, Knesset yesterday. Rather, the alleged revelations of last week's Sunday Times, which he termed "scandalous from every point of view."

Tzaban was opening the debate on Premier Peres's summation of his premiership for which the Knesset had been recalled during recess.

Tzaban who had little good to say of the national unity government under Peres's leadership, insisted

that it would be "provincial" to evade debating the nuclear issue. It could not, he said, be swept under the carpet, no matter the hysteria of censorship surrounding it.

But there was little evidence of hysteria, and little excitement, as speaker after speaker, for each — even the tiniest — rose to the occasion — on the government's performance.

Little excitement that is except for a flurry of fury over Rabin's MK Meir Wilner's attack on Natan Sharansky and Yosef Mendelevich. Sharansky, Wilner asserted, had been a U.S.



Border police hold back angry residents of Ashkelon seeking to stone Arab cars last night in revenge for the murder of Ashkelon cab driver Yisrael Kitano yesterday. (Brutmann/Media Images)

## Rotation talks put off

By SARAH HONIG  
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. — The last rotation wrangles will not be ironed out before Prime Minister Peres returns from Paris tomorrow night, nor possibly even after he tenders his resignation to the president on Friday.

This emerged when Peres and his designated successor, Yitzhak Shamir, failed to meet again last night, contrary to expectations.

Shamir meanwhile reiterated his resolve to include Yitzhak Moda'i in his cabinet.

No explanation was given for the fact that Shamir and Peres did not confer last night. It was stressed, however, that even if they had met, they would not have settled anything as Peres has said he wished first to discuss the issues with the Labour

ministerial caucus or the Labour Knesset faction after his return to Israel tomorrow.

Shamir said last night that he did not mind the delay, nor did he consider any of the problems raised by Labour as being likely to delay rotation. For his part, he planned to include Moda'i in the cabinet he would submit for Knesset approval next week. "As far as I am concerned, the matter is finalized," he said.

Shamir yesterday received a compliment from Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu. Former MK Yitzhak Korn, who headed a delegation of the Israel-Romania Friendship League which returned from a visit to Bucharest, was received personally by Ceausescu, who said that "Shamir is a good man. He will surprise you all, as Begin did."

## TV blacked out again

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Television was blacked out for the second consecutive night last night because of a wage dispute between Broadcasting Authority management and staff. On Monday night the management suspended broadcasts from 8 p.m.

Late yesterday afternoon there was still a faint hope that a compromise could be reached in time to facilitate the broadcast of the *Mabat* news. The broadcast was to have focussed on the Knesset address by Prime Minister Peres in which he summed up his two years in office. However, no accord was reached.

An appeal by the IBA for injunc-

tions against disruptive workers was deferred last night and will be heard in the Jerusalem labour court this morning.

Meanwhile, experimental broadcasts for a second channel got underway last night on UHF 22, with transmission of colour slides by Kastel Communications. The Communications Ministry does not expect the channel to become operational till the end of next year or early in 1988.

The experimental broadcasts, which will continue for several weeks, will include both music and visuals and will be seen in the Jerusalem and Gush Dan regions.

## Arafat moves PLO units from Tunis

KUWAIT (Reuters). — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday admitted he had moved his military commands to North Yemen and Iraq from Tunisia.

Speaking to reporters here on his arrival from the North Yemen capital, Sanaa, Arafat denied persistent reports of differences with Tunisian officials, but he gave no reasons for the move.

In London, there were reports that a PLO delegation would meet with senior Tunisian government officials in the next few days to try and improve the somewhat strained relations between the two.

## Government fears index may rise over 2%

By AVI TEMKIN  
Post Economic Reporter

There is growing fear in government circles that September's inflation rate may be higher than previously expected, possibly reaching some 2.5 per cent. Although low compared with monthly inflation rates in the past, such an increase in the Consumer Price Index would be one of the highest since the economic stabilization plan was launched in July last year.

The higher-than-expected rise in the price index could have political repercussions since its projected publication date is October 15, one day after Yitzhak Shamir is to take over as prime minister.

Likud sources fear that the Labour Party may take advantage of the situation and force Finance Minister Moshe Nissim to give Labour ministers a greater say in economic policy.

Until several weeks ago the Treasury had forecast an inflation rate of no more than 2 per cent, slightly higher than for the previous months because of seasonal factors.

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## Cabbie slain in Gaza

# Second knifing death rouses Ashkelon ire

By LIORA MORIEL  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The second stabbing death in two weeks of an Ashkelon resident, by knife-wielding assailants in Gaza, fuelled volatile anti-Arab feelings in the town yesterday. Colleagues of yesterday's victim, taxi driver Yisrael Kitano, twice tried to gather on the main road near Ashkelon to hurl stones at cars bearing Gaza licence plates, but were dispersed by police.

Kitano, 43, had his throat slit from behind as he was waiting for his car to be fixed in a garage in Gaza. The Shimshon Taxi Company, where Kitano worked, has been using this garage for the past 14 years.

On September 27, Haim Azran, 32, was knifed to death from behind while shopping for grapes in the Gaza market. In both stabbings, no one admitted seeing the attackers.

Kitano, who leaves a wife and three children, will be buried in Ashkelon today.

Reinforcements to police and Border Police units were brought into Ashkelon last night to maintain order and prevent further violence as Kitano is buried today.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who visited the sites of both stabbings yesterday, said that if existing security measures are not sufficient to deal with what he called "terror by

knife," then harsher measures will be taken. Meanwhile, he said, "Israelis should draw their own conclusions from these two incidents, and shouldn't go alone to certain places."

The stabbing occurred at about 10:30 a.m. The garage mechanic reported that he looked up only when he heard Kitano's screams, but did not see the actual attack.

Kitano managed to stagger about 100 metres after being attacked and was then picked up by a local driver, who turned him over to a Border Patrol jeep near the Faris market. Bleeding profusely, he was taken to the clinic at the military governor's office for initial treatment.

The medic there asked for extra blood from Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital, which he received at noon. When the transfusions failed to revive him, Kitano was rushed by ambulance to Barzilai Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival at 12:45. The hospital's spokeswoman said.

Following the attack, the IDF closed off the area around Gaza's Medina Square and rounded up dozens of men for questioning, most of whom were later released.

Ashkelon Mayor Eli Dayan, held an emergency meeting in his office with top city and police officials as soon as he received the news, then went to visit the bereaved family.

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## Finger pointed at Islamic schools

Post Defence Correspondent

Security sources said last night that there was very little that could be done about attacks like the two that occurred in Gaza over the past 10 days.

It was clear, they said, that the attacks were the work of individuals or small groups not linked to any terror organization.

Dealing with such a problem is much more complicated than fighting organized terror, the sources said.

Potential breeding grounds for

attacks like these, according to security sources, are the fundamentalist Islamic colleges and schools in the Gaza Strip. The three Gazans who hijacked Bus 300 from Ashkelon in 1984 also used knives and were students at such an institution, *The Jerusalem Post* was told.

While it is difficult to prevent such attacks, security sources said last night that they were fairly confident of finding the perpetrators. Over 80 per cent of all terror attacks in the territories are eventually solved, according to these sources.

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## El Al bomb plot trial in second day

# 'Human bomb' woman screams at Hindawi

By DAVID HOROVITZ  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — "You bastard, you," Ann Murphy screamed across an Old Bailey courtroom yesterday. "How could you do this to me?" she wailed, looking directly at Nezar Hindawi.

Murphy, the "human time bomb" into whose luggage it is alleged Hindawi smuggled a highly powerful explosive before an El Al flight from London, had fought hard to maintain her composure for a day-and-a-half, giving her evidence in the softest of tones, almost every word being dragged out of her by counsel. But she finally broke down as the answers to questions by Hindawi's defence counsel.

"No," she said, she had never seen the bomb in her bag until police showed it to her at Heathrow Airport. Then she shouted out across the courtroom, and almost immediately apologized to Justice Mans-Jones.

But a moment later she cracked again, screaming "I hate you, I hate you," at Hindawi, who remained expressionless and impassive in the dock.

Yesterday was the second day of Hindawi's trial, in which the Jordanian denies attempting to blow up El Al flight 016 from Heathrow on April 17 by smuggling explosives on board in his unwitting girlfriend's travelling bag.

The prosecution has alleged that Hindawi was working in concert with the Syrian government, and that the Syrian ambassador and London embassy staff attempted to help him escape capture after the 4.5 kilo bomb was spotted in the false bottom of Murphy's bag by an El Al security official.

Syrian Ambassador Dr. Loutouf al-Haydar, who the prosecution alleges congratulated Hindawi on his good work, refused to comment on the case, as have all Syrian Embassy personnel.

Diplomatic sources in London hinted broadly yesterday that if a Syrian connection is reliably established in Hindawi's conviction, Britain could decide to break ties with the Damascus government.

In May, three Syrian diplomats were expelled from London after they refused to waive their diplomatic immunity and face Scotland Yard

questioning in the Hindawi case. Ambassador al-Haydar is one of Syria's most senior diplomats and is said to be one of Syrian President Hafez Assad's most trusted aides.



File picture of Nezar Hindawi who had handed his pregnant Irish girlfriend a bag with a 4.5 kg. bomb as she was about to board the El Al jet which was about to take off for Tel Aviv. (AFP telephoto)

Murphy told the court yesterday that she had realized her bag felt rather heavy "but really I thought nothing of it." It was only when she was shown the package of explosives hidden in the false bottom that she realized what Hindawi had been attempting and that she would have been killed if the bomb had gone off. Tearfully she told the court how the police had taken away all her clothes, searched her and questioned her repeatedly after the discovery of the bomb.

Hindawi's counsel, Gilbert Gray, asked her whether she had not thought it odd that her Arab boyfriend, whose child she was carrying, had told her they would marry in Israel. Did she not know that an Arab man would probably prefer to get married on the East Bank? he asked. "I didn't know about that," the slim, 32-year-old Irish brunette replied.

After Murphy had completed her testimony, Peter Guernay, the police explosives officer who defused the bomb, described the explosives package in detail, and explained dispassionately how he had

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)



## The weather at major Swissair destinations

	7.10.86	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
AMSTERDAM	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
BRUSSELS	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
FRANKFURT	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
GENEVA	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
HELSINKI	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
LONDON	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
MADRID	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
MONTREAL	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
NEW YORK	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
OSLO	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
PARIS	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
SAO PAULO	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
STOCKHOLM	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
TOKYO	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
TORONTO	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
ZURICH	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15

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## THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	36	15-25	26
Golan	35	15-25	26
Nahariya	35	15-25	26
Safed	49	14-24	25
Haifa Port	58	17-28	29
Tiberias	41	18-31	32
Nazareth	48	16-27	28
Afula	42	16-29	30
Shomron	34	16-27	27
Tel Aviv	59	17-28	28
B-Gi Aviv	54	18-28	28
Jericho	38	20-33	34
Gaza	65	20-27	27
Beersheba	35	16-30	31
Eilat	28	22-34	35

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Jerusalem Rotary Club will hold its weekly luncheon at 1 p.m. today at the Jerusalem YMCA.

Lester M. Entin, a New Jersey real estate developer, will receive the Tel Aviv University President's Medal at a testimonial dinner in New Jersey on Saturday evening.

## Birth

To Ruth and Prof. Herbert Freund a boy, Daniel, brother to Michael. Grandparents: Judith and Haim Fischer, and Kurt Freund. Brit-Mila at Hadassah Hospital Ein-Kerem on Friday October 10, 1986 at 1 p.m.

## ARRIVALS

World Wizo President Rava Jaglom, yesterday from Geneva.

## Sarid took Peres's bait

By DVORAH GETZLER

Let's dispense the fog surrounding what you are prepared to give up for peace, Premier Peres yesterday challenged his left-wing opponents. And Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) rose to the bait, claiming impetuously from the floor of the Knesset that he was prepared to redevide Jerusalem.

Peres was replying to the critics of his state-of-the-coalition speech. Specifically, the premier was taking issue with Yair Tzaban (Mapam), who had said earlier that it was impossible to expect the Palestinians to negotiate when Israel itself befogged the conditions it was prepared to accept in return for peace.

But it was against his one-time party colleague, Sarid, the enfant terrible of Labour before he resigned to join the CRM when Labour went into coalition with the Likud in 1984, that Peres turned his attack.

"You know your own weakness, Yossi," Peres baited him. "When pressed to the wall and asked: 'The 1967 borders, yes or no...'"

Sarid: Yes.

Peres: The redeivision of Jerusalem, yes or no?

Sarid, to uproar in the chamber: yes.

Peres: Redevide Jerusalem? Fine: The nation has now emerged from the fog.

## Phone owners to be notified of cut-offs

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Bezek has reluctantly decided to cancel its policy of cutting off phones of subscribers who have unpaid debts without first informing them that they owe money. The Jerusalem Post has learned.

Ten days ago Bezek shocked about 10,000 phone subscribers by disconnecting their phones without warning and without notifying them of how much they owed. Most of the subscribers were from Jerusalem.

## Beduin brawl

TUBA (Itim). - Dozens of residents of this Beduin village east of Rosh Pina took part in a bloody brawl yesterday that left two women with serious head injuries.

Witnesses said that the police arrived just in time to prevent the violence from escalating to murder. "People were so hysterical they didn't know what they were doing. They were smashing each other with iron bars, bottles, anything in sight. It's only luck that there were no weapons handy."

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

## Rally demands pardon for Jewish terror

By MENACHEM SHALEV

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Thousands of demonstrators took to Jerusalem's streets last night demanding presidential pardons for Jewish terror underground members still in jail.

Six of the 27 convicted underground members are still in jail, three serving life sentences for murder.

The demonstrators, mostly young and religious, were guided by mounted policemen as they marched through the city centre to a rally held in a square near the Sheraton-Plaza hotel.

The march snarled traffic in the city for several hours. Three opponents of the pardons were arrested after minor scuffles broke out. But the demonstration passed without incident.

The demonstration "was not aimed at applying pressure on President Herzog," said MK Dov Shilanski, who walked at the head of the procession. Rather, it showed support for the "release of the boys" who acted for the motherland, the settlements and the security of the state," he said.

Placards at the rally also called for the release of David Ben Shimon, convicted of killing a man in a rocket attack on an Arab bus in October, 1984; Allen Goodman, serving a life sentence for killing a Temple Mount guard in April, 1982; and against the



Demonstrators call for the release of Jewish terror underground members still in jail, in Jerusalem last night. (Yossi Zamir)

extradition to France of William Nakash.

Addressing the chanting crowd, Rabbi Moshe Levinger said that "80 per cent of the population support the release of the boys."

A spokesman for Ometz, a student organization affiliated with the Citizens' Rights Movement and the Zionist left at the Hebrew University,

expressed dismay at the "one-sidedness" of the police. "They arrested Ometz demonstrators who used no violence and only tried to express opinions, while those who attacked us were not arrested."

While the organizers claimed that 25,000 people had participated, police sources estimated the crowd at "a little over 2,000."

## Nurses quit wards this morning

By LEA LEVAVI

Jerusalem Post Reporters

Hospital nurses will walk off the job at 7 a.m. today and again until 2:30 p.m., nurses' representatives announced yesterday. Additional sanctions will be considered if there is no progress in negotiations with the government.

But Health Ministry officials fear that the abandonment of the wards and departments will go on beyond 2:30 p.m., as the nurses believe there is little chance of their winning the "most important concession" from the Treasury - the shortening of the work week from 36 to 32 hours.

At a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday the nurses said they would not be specific about their future actions, which might include hunger strikes, because they wanted to remain flexible.

They accused the employers, particularly Treasury labour and wage agreement head Hillel Dudai, of trying to hoodwink them and of playing for time.

Ilana Cohen, one of the nurses' representatives, said that Dudai

made offers, retracted them and then made the same offers again, or offered things the nurses already had.

The nurses reacted coldly to a Dudai statement to the press on Monday that if his proposals were accepted, the average nurse would earn NIS 1,500 a month. Hezi Chaviv, a male nurse, said nurses had earned significantly more than the average wage in the economy in 1979. Today, a beginning nurse earns about half the average wage. "If the situation is so good, why are the nursing schools empty?" he wanted to know.

A rank and file nurse from Tel Hashomer showed her pay slip with a gross of about NIS 1,100, which included pay for five Saturday, several night shifts and other extra duty.

"We would accept a gross of NIS 1,500 a month if we could earn it in a normal work week," said one nurse.

Health Ministry director-general Dan Michaeli sent telegrams to all hospital directors yesterday ordering them to evacuate all non-critical patients and not to perform elective

surgery. This was the fourth time such an order has been issued in the past few weeks.

Health Minister Mordechai Gur, who is ending his tenure as minister next week at the time of the rotation, reportedly does not want to end his post on the sour note of a strike and is eager to end the sanctions. But the Treasury is the only body that can resolve the impasse. Gur met with Finance Minister Moshe Nissim yesterday. Nissim also met with Histadrut secretary-general Yisrael Kessar.

Today's sanctions will not include premature and newborn baby wards or dialysis units. Operating rooms will function on an emergency basis.

The Health Ministry claims that "in no country in the western world do nurses work less than a 38-hour week."

The ministry is not yet contemplating any legal action against the nurses for deciding to strike again - the fifth walkout in two-and-a-half weeks. But it "may reconsider its stand if the nurses decide to abandon all departments, including dialysis and neonatology."

## Peres's answer to 'knives of Gaza'

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

ASHDOD. - The most meaningful response to "the knives of Gaza," said Prime Minister Shimon Peres last night, was the existence of Ashkelon, Ashdod and the kibbutzim and moshavim on Gaza's periphery.

Peres was speaking at 30th anniversary celebrations for Ashdod at which he was made an Honorary Citizen of the port. Alluding to the murder in Ashkelon earlier in the day, the prime minister said the security forces will uproot terrorism.

Several thousand invited guests filling a large customs shed at the port gave Peres a warm reception that contrasted sharply with the angry demonstration that greeted the prime minister in Ashkelon last week when he dedicated a square in honour of the late Moroccan king, Mohammed V.

Last night's event was one of Peres' last public appearances as prime minister and he plainly enjoyed walking through the crowd, shaking hands and exchanging comments. Introduced by Mayor Arye Azulai as a promoter of Ashdod's well-being from his days in the defence ministry, Peres talked about his visit to the town in its early days with then prime minister David Ben-Gurion. He compared the sand-filled streets and sense of aimlessness of those days with what he described as the vibrant and beautiful city Ashdod had become.

But, Peres cautioned, the test of the national unity government still lay ahead in its degree of faithfulness to its basic policy guidelines. Here, he stressed economic policies - a seeming pledge that the Alignment would continue to make this a key area of interest.

But, most importantly, he said, the peace momentum must be continued.

The warning was clear, and it was underlined by Peres's remark that the national unity government might well not be capable of continuing if and when Israel sat down at the peace negotiating table.

## U.S. aerospace representatives end meetings here

## 'Lavi alternative not likely'

By HIRSH GOODMAN

Post Defence Correspondent

Representatives of three major American aerospace companies completed a series of meetings in Israel last week to try to find an alternative to the Lavi fighter, now in final stages of development at the Israel Aircraft Industries.

The search for an alternative was ordered by the Pentagon, and it was based on the Pentagon's assumption that the Lavi will ultimately prove too much of a financial burden for both Israel and the U.S.

One proposal is that Israel produce 300 F-16 fighters here, under licence to General Dynamics, the plane's manufacturer.

The study mission here was conducted by General Dynamics,

Northrop and McDonnell Douglas. Sources here doubt whether any of the three companies will come up with a viable alternative acceptable to the Israel Air Force and, at the same time, able to satisfy Israel's industrial and technological needs.

The Pentagon has agreed that any alternative must satisfy these conditions, as well as take into account the huge sums of money that will have to be paid in fines to contractors on the Lavi in lieu of broken contracts.

The Pentagon has placed a four-month deadline on the alternative study, due to end in December, by which time the Lavi prototype should have made its maiden flight. The flight, originally scheduled for late September, was postponed be-

cause of the late delivery of the plane's flight-control system from Lear-Siegler in the U.S.

According to IAI officials, work on the first flight is proceeding "at a crazy pace," and they are fully confident that it will be made no later than early December.

In addition to the discussions with the three American firms, the IAI is negotiating with Grumman, another major American aerospace firm, on a possible partnership on the Lavi. Grumman is making the wing and tail sections of the Lavi, but it could be interested in a larger partnership on the plane. The IAI and Grumman last month signed a memorandum of understanding outlining a potential partnership.

## Peres's policy speech

## An eminently palatable farewell

Anyone who had expected Shimon Peres at the end of his 25-month premiership to leave his successor with a challenging, politically unpalatable testament may have been sorely disappointed yesterday.

The outgoing prime minister's "policy statement" in the Knesset contained little that could ruffle Likud sensibilities and nothing at all that would cause Begin's heirs to fall on their swords rather than vote "aye." And, indeed, they voted "aye," with the Alignment MKs.

Almost everything Peres said seemed geared to ensuring as smooth a possible a rotation and as amiable a working relationship as possible between himself and Vice Premier Shamir in the coming 25 months.

Peres enjoined the government to direct its "primary efforts" to expanding Jewish settlement in the Galilee and the Negev. The implication, that the Likud should desist from pushing settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, was left to hang in the air, unuttered.

(Perhaps Peres got what he deserved during MK Dan Meridor's response, when, with only slight sarcasm, he praised the Peres government's performance on the West Bank-Gaza settlement front and enjoined the Shamir government similarly to press forward with settlement of the Galilee and the Negev, which had been somewhat neglected during the past two years.)

Peres also repeatedly spoke of the changed tone of government under his premiership: "We no longer need to demonstrate our strength to the world by means of boastfulness and demonstrations," and stressed that his regime's achievements had been arrived at "not with declarations, not by demagoguery, without any tendency towards adventurism."

These references may have rankled the Likud, but not once did Peres identify by name or persuasion those who had brought the country to such a pass, or explain how it was that despite Likud opposition the IDF had been withdrawn from Lebanon, the economy set aright and the Taba arbitration agreement reached with Egypt. Peres had set out to avoid polemics, and succeeded.

## ANALYSIS

BENNY MORRIS



UNRUFFLED - Yitzhak Shamir. (Elihu Harari)

Nowhere was this more apparent than in his treatment of the stalled peace process with Jordan and the Palestinians. Negotiations are proceeding with Jordan, conducted through the U.S., to prepare for negotiations, he told the House.

But to get off the ground, he explained somewhat apologetically, these talks, at least initially, will have to take place within the framework of "an international forum," with "international accompaniment." Otherwise, he explained, Jordan and the Palestinians - and Egypt - would refuse to take part. No mention here of a full-fledged international conference, as agreed to by Peres and Egypt's President Mubarak last month and as lambasted by the Likud.

But it was not merely an issue of semantics; it was more a matter of what Peres left completely or partly unsaid. He did not repeat Israel's support, as endorsed by him in Alexandria, for the "legitimate rights" of

the Palestinians; did not refer, as he has done in the past, to "the Palestinian people"; and did not endorse the possible participation in peace talks of PLO-linked Palestinians who had renounced terror and accepted Israel's right to exist, as he has previously done implicitly. Rather, he vaguely reiterated his notion of allowing "authentic Palestinians" to sit at the conference table.

It was perhaps with reference to the current state and future of the administered territories that Peres waxed most imprecise and unforthright.

Mentioning the recent appointment of Arab mayors, the establishment of an Arab bank branch in Nablus and the decrease of terrorism by "50 per cent," the prime minister lauded "the network of relations" established between Israelis and Arabs "that grants all the residents - Arab and Jews alike - peaceful coexistence and a secure existence." (As Peres was speaking a second Ashkelon man was murdered in Gaza.)

As to the future, Peres vaguely declared that "the solution to the Palestinian problem" lay within "a Jordanian-Palestinian framework." No mention here of federation or confederation or of territorial compromise, let alone of Palestinian self-determination within the context of such a confederation.

A "Jordanian-Palestinian framework" was vague enough for the Likud to live with as their "ayes" demonstrated. Only afterwards, at the end of the session, but not in his policy statement, did Peres reject the Palestinian autonomy provision of the Camp David accords as a recipe for a Palestinian state. No doubt, we shall hear a lot about the autonomy scheme from Shamir in the coming two years.

In sum, Peres left unsaid, or seemingly drew back from, the whole gamut of conciliatory phrases and formulations that had marked his premiership as a major, peace-oriented departure from Likud thinking and policies - formulations, indeed, that had palpably rankled and worried the Likud during the past two years.

## Ya'ari firm at end of testimony

By YORAM GAZIT

For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - After two days of grueling cross-examination by the prosecution and by Aviva Granot's attorney, Hava Ya'ari yesterday ended her testimony in the district court here by sticking to her story that American tourist Mala Malavski was killed while jumping from Ya'ari's car during a struggle with Granot.

Despite many contradictions during her testimony, Ya'ari stuck firmly to her version of events on the night of Malavski's death. "I might be a liar, but I'm not a murderer," she repeated. "Malavski was killed in an accident."

Ya'ari and Granot are alleged to have driven Malavski to the Tel Baruch beach in March, 1985, to have hit her on the head with a rolling pin and then to have run her over with Ya'ari's car.

Answering prosecutor Pnina Dvorn's questions, Ya'ari repeated her testimony that Malavski was killed

led after her third attempt to jump from her car, following a struggle with Granot.

She told the court that she was busy driving, while Granot tried to rob Malavski. Ya'ari said she had lost her way in the process of breaking up the fight and calming down Malavski.

Ya'ari insisted that no rolling pin was used on the night of the alleged murder and said she had only mentioned the rolling pin in earlier testimony because Granot had accused her of using it to kill Malavski and because the pathologists mentioned it as the cause of death.

The prosecution attempted yesterday to prove that Ya'ari acted in cold blood during the night of Malavski's death and later when she tried to eliminate evidence.

But Ya'ari maintained that she had been reluctant to tell the police about the accident because Granot had told her not to do so. She had hoped that the police would discover the truth.

Asked by Granot's attorney,

Natan Kenneth, why, if the death was an accident - as she claimed - had Granot not gone to the police to report the incident, Ya'ari replied, "I have thought about it for the last nine months. In the Neveh Tirza prison and my conclusion is that Granot felt responsible for Malavski's death and therefore was afraid to report it to the police."

Ya'ari's attorneys yesterday invited senior pathologist Heinrich Karplus to the witness stand. He disagreed with the prosecution's pathologist, Dr. Yehuda Hiss, who testified earlier in the trial that Malavski was put in front of a car in a sitting position and was pushed from behind. According to Karplus, Malavski was killed after being caught beneath a car and dragged on the ground.

Ya'ari, dressed in blue and white striped shirt and blue jeans, expressed relief yesterday when the cross-examination ended. When she asked the court if she was through, Judge Yosef Goldberg answered: "The difficult part for you is over."

## Foreign Ministry appointments

By BENNY MORRIS

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Ministry appointments committee yesterday made the following appointments: Gideon Tadmor as director of the Diaspora department; Ya'akov Aviad as director of the consular department;

Ehud Gol, until now deputy spokesman, as spokesman and director of the ministry's press department; Michael Shiloh as director of the Oceania department;

Yeheskel Barnea as director of the department for cultural relations; Avi Siron as director of the Jordan department in the Research Centre; Danni Kiram as director of the computers department.

LOTTO. - The lucky numbers in yesterday's national lottery draw are 14, 15, 23, 27, 28, 34 and the additional number is 37.

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Hadassah Council in Israel  
Hadassah Community College

extend their heartfelt sympathy to  
**SHIRLEY SCHOFFMAN AND HER FAMILY**  
on the passing of her dear mother  
**CLARA LEBOWITZ**

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of  
**ILSE WITTENBERG**  
The funeral took place yesterday at  
Kibbutz Beit Zera.

The family at Beit Zera



## FOREIGN AND REGIONAL NEWS

# Nicaragua downs plane, captures 'adviser'

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP). — The leftist government claimed yesterday a survivor from a downed rebel supply plane identified himself as a U.S. military adviser and said three dead crew members were U.S. citizens.

In Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz denied the U.S. government had any connection with the plane.

The Sandinista newspaper *barri-cada* said the plane was "proof of the open participation of the U.S. in the war of aggression against Nicaragua."

"We now have Americans dying in Reagan's dirty war being waged against Nicaragua," Alejandro Bendana, secretary-general of the Foreign

Ministry, claimed in an interview from Managua broadcast yesterday on the U.S. television network ABC's *Nightline* programme.

"This brings us closer to a direct Nicaragua-U.S. confrontation," Bendana said.

ABC reported that U.S. assistant secretary of state Elliot Abrams denied the plane could have been a U.S. military aircraft because Congress has prohibited such aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras. The U.S. supports the Contras, and a bill authorizing \$100 million in aid is pending in Congress.

Bendana later told ABC: "When we're talking about a U.S. plane, we're not saying it's a U.S. Army

plane. But it's obviously a CIA operation with CIA operatives."

The Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said the plane, believed to have been a C-123 tactical transport, was shot down with a Soviet-made surface-to-air missile on Sunday.

In a statement, the ministry said the plane carried at least 50,000 rounds of ammunition for AK-47 automatic rifles, dozens of rifles, an unspecified number of rocket-propelled grenades and other equipment for the Contras.

The statement said the surviving crew member identified himself as Eugene Hafentuf, 35, and said he was a U.S. military adviser in El Salvador. It said the survivor had identified

the other crew members as U.S. citizens, but gave no further details about Hafentuf, his whereabouts or about the three dead.

A presidential press secretary said in a phone interview that poor visibility prevented helicopters from reaching the crash site in heavy jungle about 60 kilometres north of Costa Rica and 150 kilometres southeast of Managua.

He said the survivor still was at the crash scene and would be brought to Managua as soon as possible.

Shultz said some private Americans had hired the large military cargo plane, but that the U.S. government was not involved.

"It wasn't an American cargo

plane," Shultz told a news conference.

Shultz was asked about the incident on *Worldnet*, a televised news conference sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency and beamed to Europe.

There was no U.S. confirmation of the crew members' identities. No American serviceman has been reported captured or killed in combat in Nicaragua since 1979, when the Sandinistas ousted the U.S.-backed dictatorship of president Anastasio Somoza.

Sandinista soldiers were to take journalists yesterday to view the wreckage of the plane, the Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said in a statement late Monday.

# U.S. already looks to 'broader' summit

WASHINGTON (AP). — The U.S. could be prepared for a full-scale summit with the Soviet Union next month, especially if talks between leaders of the two countries in Iceland go well, a top presidential aide said yesterday.

Chief of the White House staff Donald Regan said that he expects President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev to meet for several hours Saturday and Sunday in Geneva, just as they did last year in Iceland.

Interviewed on the NBC-TV network's *Today* programme, Regan said the administration views the Reykjavik meetings as a preparation for a full-scale summit. Regan said it is possible, but not certain, that a date for the broader summit would be set at the Iceland meetings.

"That's possible. But it could be that we would just say, well, let's see how our negotiators in Geneva get along with new instructions and, if they can come to some conclusions rather quickly, the date will be sooner rather than later," Regan said.

Asked if he anticipates a full-scale summit by the end of the year, Regan replied, "I would say that there will be a summit in the United

States. When...I don't know. We could be prepared for it as early as November or December, but the date itself is not important. The idea is can we actually get arms reduction."

The announcement of this week's summit raised hopes among Nato and Warsaw Pact nations for improved U.S.-Soviet relations.

"There was a sigh of relief all across Europe," said one Washington-based East European official who, along with other European observers, predicted progress would be made in curbing intermediate-range nuclear missiles and chemical weapons.

U.S. officials say progress is possible in these areas, but caution against expecting any quick treaties from the summit, particularly in the vital area of strategic offensive and defensive weapons.

British, Italian, West German and Japanese leaders have also hailed the meeting. At the top of the European wish list is an agreement for cutting back the number of U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces, or "INF" in the parlance of summits.

# Italy and Libya exchange prisoners

ROME (AP). — Libya freed four Italians during the night in an exchange for three Libyans convicted of killing or trying to kill fellow Libyans in Italy, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The exchange was announced only after the Italians returned home and climaxed secret diplomatic negotiations that apparently dated back at least two years.

An International Red Cross plane flew the Italians to Ciampino Airport in Rome, where relatives had gathered to meet them.

The Libyans left Italy late Monday, but it was not known whether they were also flown home aboard a Red Cross plane.

Two of the Italians had been held since 1980 and had been sentenced to life on charges of plotting against Libya. The other two were serving

10-year sentences for drug possession.

The Foreign Ministry identified the freed Italians as Enzo Castelli and Edoardo Seliciato, who were arrested in August 1980 on charges of participating in a plot against the security of Libya, and Mauro Piccin and Massimo Caporali, held on drug charges.

Castelli and Seliciato were linked by the Libyans to an army revolt against the regime of Col. Muammar Gaddafi near Tobruk in August 1980. The Libyans accused the Italians of aiding a group of dissident Libyan army officers and Egyptian agents plotting a coup.

In exchange for their freedom, Italy granted pardons to Yusef Uthidi, sentenced to 26 years imprisonment for killing a fellow Libyan, believed to be a dissident, in 1980,

and to Mohammed Sidki Sajed Dous and Jumia Mohammed Ali Mezdawi, sentenced to 14 years and 11 months each for trying to kill a Libyan government opponent in 1981.

Dous and Mezdawi had fired on a Libyan businessman getting off a plane in Rome, mistaking him for a Libyan opposition leader, according to testimony at their trial.

Libya's revolutionary committees during that period were tracking down Libyan dissidents abroad, but the two testified they had acted on their own.

The Foreign Ministry said Castelli and Seliciato were both in poor health and that their families had been appealing to Libya for some time to release them.

Italian newspapers reported in 1984 that a possible prisoner exchange was under consideration.



A seamstress in Paris examines a cloth edition of the French daily *Liberation* yesterday. Some 150,000 copies of the cloth paper are to go on sale today in major French cities. The edition, which is meant to promote the textile industry, contains 16 pages of articles and advertising relating to textiles. (Reuters telephoto)

# Sunni leader shot dead on busy Beirut street

BEIRUT (Reuters). — A masked gunman on a motorcycle shot dead a Sunni Moslem religious scholar in a crowded Beirut street yesterday and fellow clergymen called for a general strike in protest, security sources and a radio report said.

Security sources said Sheikh Subhi al-Saleh, 60, was killed in mainly Moslem West Beirut when the motorcyclist drew alongside his car in rush hour traffic and shot with a silenced pistol. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The killing of Saleh, deputy head of the Supreme Moslem Council and a prominent figure in the Arab world, drew condemnation from Christian and Moslem leaders.

Sunni clergymen in the Association of Moslem Scholars called for a general protest strike today, *Sunnism Voice* of the Homeland radio station said.

President Amin Jemayel, a Christian, condemned the killing and asked security forces to investigate, it added.

Saleh's assassination signalled a further setback for a Syrian-sponsored security plan originally designed to end the chaotic reign of lawless militias in West Beirut.

Also yesterday, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) urged the Islamic Jihad terror group to execute French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffman, who is

being held in Lebanon.

In a statement telephoned to a western news agency in Beirut, a man claiming to be a spokesman for Asala said the execution would "mark the visit of the Zionist (Prime Minister Shimon Peres) to France."

In Paris, PLO security chief Abu Iyad accused Syrian intelligence of being behind a recent spate of threats to France from Asala and another terror group. The second group, The Committee of Solidarity with Arab and Middle Eastern Political Prisoners, has claimed responsibility for the recent bombings in Paris.

Iyad (Salah Khalaf) told a Paris press conference that the PLO is "ready to cooperate with any party suffering from terrorism."

"The PLO," he said, "accepts any initiative to end the terrorist wave of which those responsible are exploiting the Palestinian problem to justify their actions."

A members of Asala contacted a western agency in Beirut and condemned the statement by Abu Iyad, accusing him of cooperation with France and Israel against Armenians who are in French prisons.

TRAINING. — The Soviet Union has invited an Egyptian military delegation to Moscow to discuss a plan to train Egyptian pilots to fly MiG-21s and MiG-29s.

# Fighting resumes at Rashidiyah camp

BEIRUT (Reuters). — Renewed fighting yesterday marked a Syrian-mediated truce between Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Palestinians around a refugee camp in South Lebanon, security sources reported.

They said machine-gun and rocket fire was exchanged when Palestinians tried to raise a flag at the entrance to the Rashidiyah camp, south of the port of Tyre.

The camp, with an estimated 20,000 residents, has been sealed off by Amal fighters since last Tuesday when clashes broke out between the two sides, apparently after an Amal patrol was ambushed nearby.

A ceasefire came into force on Friday to enable both sides to seek a settlement. There has been sporadic shooting since then, including yesterday's clash which lasted 20 minutes.

# Syrian unrest reported

The Voice of Lebanon, quoting the Lebanese Central News Agency, said yesterday that two explosions recently shook the Syrian towns of Aleppo and Homs, resulting in six dead and a number of injuries.

The agency did not mention the date of the explosions, but noted that 800 Moslem Fundamentalists staged demonstration on September 21 in Aleppo protesting the arrest of three local religious figures in the city, and calling for the downfall of the regime.

# FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF

## Berlin Wall runner returned to West

WEST BERLIN (Reuters). — A 68-year-old U.S. citizen seized by Communist border guards after he ran along the top of the Berlin wall in East Berlin territory has been returned to the West after two days' detention, West Berlin police said yesterday.

John Runnings ran several hundred metres along the four-metre high white concrete wall on Saturday with a companion. Both were pulled down by guards and driven away into East Berlin.

Police said Runnings' companion remained in custody.

## IRA claims assassination

BELFAST (AFP). — The Irish Republican Army yesterday claimed responsibility for killing a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, an auxiliary corps of the British Army, on Monday.

The 27-year-old UDR man was ambushed as he was driving home along a quiet country road near Dungannon, not far from the border with the Irish Republic, police said.

## Missile explodes during Egyptian wargames

CAIRO (Reuters). — Prime Minister Ali Lutfi and Defence Minister Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala escaped injury yesterday when a missile from a jet fighter taking part in wargames missed its target and exploded near them, eyewitnesses said.

## World's deepest hole

BONN (AFP). — West German scientists are preparing to drill the world's deepest hole near the southern town of Emdorf to study the earth's crust. Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber said here yesterday.

The drill will go 3 km deep the first year, and down to 14 km between 1989 and 1997. Some 20 scientists will be involved in the 45 million-mark (\$225m.) project.

## Iraqi city shelled

BASRA (AP). — Iranian border artillery gunners shelled for a third straight day Iraq's second-largest city, and the Iraqi military command said five civilians were killed yesterday and 17 injured.

# U.S.: 'Fire in rocket fuel caused sinking of sub'

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — A nuclear missile fuel mishap is the most likely cause of the blast which sent a Soviet submarine to the bottom of the Atlantic on Monday, according to U.S. naval experts.

Analysts also said the sinking of the boat, which carried up to 16 missiles, was the latest in a series of mishaps involving superpower nuclear vessels and pointed up the dangers of nuclear operations at sea.

Retired Navy Capt. James Bush, associate director of the Centre for Defence Information in Washington, said a fire in the submarine's highly volatile liquid rocket fuel was the most likely cause of the mishap.

Pentagon officials said an explosion occurred in the third missile launch tube from the bow on the port, or left, side.

Bush said the fuel was stored near the missiles to be loaded into them before firing.

"It's a pretty scary system," he said.

U.S. naval experts say liquid fuel systems are highly dangerous and for that reason American submarine missiles are powered by solid fuel.

A submarine expert close to the Pentagon said yellowish smoke visible in television pictures of the stricken sub Sunday strongly indicated liquid rocket fuel had exploded and was burning.

So did photos showing a hole in a missile compartment with part of the vessel's outer metal skin peeled back, he said.

The accident was most likely due to an error by the crew or to a flaw in some new type of missile on board, he said.

Retired admiral Elmo Zumwalt, former chief of naval operations, told reporters that nuclear missiles aboard the submarine would have been equipped with safeguards against accidental explosion and evidently posed no serious environmental hazards.

Experts said they would now likely lie harmlessly 3.5 miles down on the icy and dark ocean floor until they eventually corroded away over the years. Danger from any radiation seepage was seen as minimal.

The U.S. has no intention of re-floating the sub because it would be of little military interest, Pentagon officials added yesterday.

# New 'upmarket' daily makes debut in Britain

LONDON (AP). — A new upmarket national daily, *The Independent*, was launched yesterday in a bid to grab circulation from Britain's most prestigious newspapers.

Without gimmicks, exclusives or brass headlines but with the benefit of some of Britain's top journalistic talent, *The Independent* looked set to provide a determined challenge.

Setting out the paper's objectives, editor Andreas Whittam Smith wrote in a page-2 article:

"The *Independent* exists because of a shared belief on the part of its investors and the people who work for it that the readers of quality newspapers are not well-served."

"Journalism of the highest standard cannot easily flourish when impeded by union restrictive practices or by the political prejudices of the typical newspaper proprietor."

More than 630,000 copies of the first issue were printed. The lead story was about efforts by the ruling Conservative Party to halt the slide of the British pound.

Inside the 32-page issue were four pages of British news, three of foreign reports, plus arts and health pages, a letters column, four pages of business news and the same number of sports pages.

In what the British domestic news agency Press Association dubbed "the battle of the broadsheets," *The Independent* has targeted a slice of territory long held by *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*, both right-of-centre, the liberal *Guardian* and the

politically independent *Financial Times*.

The quartet, scrambling for television advertising space and special promotions, have hit back at the first newcomer among the highbrow papers — known in Britain as the "quality" — since *The Financial Times* was founded in 1888.

In an advertisement in *The Financial Times* on Monday, *The Independent* said other qualities had offered up TV advertising prices and added 25 per cent pay hikes to try to lure back journalists *The Independent* had taken from them.

*The Times*, owned since 1981 by Australian-born Rupert Murdoch, sells 479,000 copies a day. *The Daily Telegraph*, owned since last December by Canadian Conrad Black, sells 1.2 million. The British-owned *Guardian* sells 486,000 and the British-owned *Financial Times* sells 228,000 copies.

*The Independent* is the second paper spawned by the press revolution that has forced most of Britain's nine national dailies and eight national weeklies to slash production payrolls and invest millions in high-technology plants in the past year.

Refua Shlema  
"to our rabbi"  
Rabbi AVRAHAM WEISS  
Hebrew Institute — Riverdale N.Y.  
from your many friends  
in Israel

# Tories convening in a combative mood

BOURNEMOUTH (Reuters). — Britain's ruling Conservatives opened their annual conference yesterday with a blistering attack on the opposition Labour Party's defence policy, saying it was bound to undermine the Nato alliance.

Conservative chairman Norman Tebbit, in his opening address to 5,000 delegates at what is expected to be the last party conference before general elections, also pledged to expand the party's policy of privatizing state industries and cutting taxes.

Delegates gave a standing ovation to Tebbit's wife Margaret, making her first appearance at a party conference since she was partly paralysed by an Irish Republican Army bomb two years ago.

The security issue was underlined when two men, arrested Monday night outside the hotel where Prime Minister Thatcher was staying,

appeared in court on firearms charges. Police were dismissing the incident as an act of stupidity.

In his speech, Tebbit, who was also injured in the bomb blast during the 1984 party conference in Brighton, attacked Labour's plans to scrap Britain's nuclear deterrent and to close all U.S. nuclear bases in this country.

"The first duty of any government — without which none other is possible — must be the defence of the realm," he said. Labour had "a policy bound to fatally undermine Nato — the alliance which has preserved the peace and freedom which we have enjoyed in West Europe for 40 years," Tebbit said.

*Jerusalem Post Correspondent David Horowitz adds from London:* The Conservatives would probably be the first to admit we had a pretty easy time of it in the House of Commons these past seven years.

Genuinely reviled by huge chunks of the voting public, recent opinion polls nevertheless place Thatcher's party only 2 per cent behind Labour and well clear of the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance.

So why aren't the Tories doing worse?

The question really is why have the opposition parties failed to pick up the support of those disaffected millions?

At their respective party conference over the past month, the Liberals, Social Democrats and Labour have been trying to present themselves as a credible alternative to Thatcher's government, something the statistics show they have failed to do in the past.

To give the Social Democrats their due, their week-long convalescence was a model of decorum and good sense, albeit a little lacking in sparkle. Party leader David Owen was as

impressive at the microphone as he was before photographers on the tennis court. We were reminded of the party's early days, when those four intrepid soldiers — Owen, Shirley Williams, Roy Jenkins and William Rogers — pioneered a brake-away from the increasingly radical Labour Party with the aim of giving Britain a down-to-earth, moderate alternative to the Big Two.

But just days after Owen's masterly conference performance had restored some of that early credibility, the Liberals punctured it, with delegates voting against their leader's wishes on the question of nuclear defences, leaving the Alliance's defence policy in shreds.

Liberal leader David Steel had egg on his face — he had been confident that his party's delegates would back him — but the defeat was more than a personal blow for Steel, it was an early warning for prospective

Alliance voters. If major rifts like these can develop at the relaxed party conferences, what hope is there of unity when there's an election battle to be fought?

Which brings us to Labour's magnificent effort at Blackpool last week.

The early expulsion of some of Labour's more troublesome delegates, from the radical militant extreme left faction, left Captain Neil Kinnock to sail his ship through the calmest of waters.

A close examination of what was actually achieved, however, suggests that the unity might be only paper-thin. So many of the more emotive topics were left unresolved, with details to be worked out at a later date.

Nuclear power, for example, was an issue that threatened to divide the party. In the end it was agreed that Labour wanted nuclear power phased out.

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## The Green Patrol: Ten years after - III

# Promises and compromises - nobody wins

By LIORA MORIEL

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
BEERSHEBA. - Over the past 10 years the battle between the Green Patrol and the Beduin has gained many headlines, but lately an uneasy truce seems to be taking shape in the Negev based on promises and compromises. In the end, nobody wins: the purpose is to minimize the losses. The two main bones of contention have been trespassing and illegal buildings.

Two months ago, an umbrella bureau of Beduin affairs was established to settle all land claims and oversee the construction of Beduin townships.

The promises are cheap land and mortgages, as well as the most modern infrastructure built as fast as possible. The compromises are that the Beduin become sedentary and the Green Patrol become a tame administrative watchdog.

Eli Babai, deputy director of the Israel Land Authority (ILA), told *The Jerusalem Post* that, following the State Comptroller's criticism, there are now weekly meetings to map out the Green Patrol's actions. "It's not an autonomous unit," he stressed. "We tightened our supervision of the unit last year and people have learned to respect the law. They know that if they trespass, they'll be punished."

Babai said that two years ago a new law went into effect calling for the evacuation of trespassers within

30 days of their discovery. He added that as long as there are wide-open spaces between Eilat and the Golan Heights, the Green Patrol is necessary.

"I think the Beduin have learned to appreciate the Green Patrol's work, and over the past two years the unit has done wonders with the whole matter of flocks. If you talk about the Green Patrol with the Beduin today, they will have nothing but praise for the unit."

Wary of fighting the patrol in court, and wary of legislative changes in any case, the Beduin have accepted the necessity of urbanization. It is estimated that by the end of the decade 70 per cent of the 60,000 Negev Beduin will live in stone houses built by themselves in seven towns. The Nature Reserves Authority (NRA) estimates that of the 6,200 Beduin families in the Negev, 4,700 already live within the projected boundaries of these towns.

Until this summer, however, two of these towns had not been fully planned because the authorities decided to "freeze" their construction for security reasons. Thus, an absurd situation arose - Beduin were fined and harassed for illegal construction, but were not given alternatives. Naturally, the reactions were often violent.

In Hura alone, 220 families bought land plots from the ILA but were not permitted to build on their own land legally. But if they built

illegally, they were ordered to demolish the structure within days. In Lajia, there were sometimes pitched battles between the Beduin and the authorities.

"The situation will improve as soon as the government gives the Beduin viable alternatives," Babai admitted.

Shalom Danino, the Southern District commissioner, agreed that "in the past there were no alternatives to illegal construction and this resulted in friction and misunderstandings. Today, at least, there are solutions within sight." But he noted that the construction of the towns will take money - which the Beduin find difficult to come up with - and time.

Danino told *The Post* that the patrol acts as an independent unit carrying out special functions for the Interior Ministry on matters of illegal construction and other infringements of the regional planning committee.

"The truth of the matter is that with the imminent resolution of the land-ownership problem and the setting up of the seven towns (Tel Sheva, Rahat, Kuseifa, Arouar, Segev Shalom, Hura and Lajia), the contact between the patrol and the Beduin population becomes more understandable and legitimate."

"The quality and standard of life in a modern society, as well as the demands, are incompatible with the

nomadic way of life. For the purpose of preserving some semblance of the old ways of life, each family has a tent by the stone house in town, and there they eat some of their meals and receive some of their guests."

The popularity of the Beduin Museum near Kibbutz Lahav with the region's Beduin, who take their visitors from neighbouring countries there, is indicative of the nostalgia that is part of the Beduin way of life today. As schools and health clinics proliferate, as electricity and running water become everyday comforts, and as fewer Beduin remain farmers and shepherds, so are clashes with the Green Patrols reduced.

"The Beduin love the wide open spaces and freedom. They prefer the tent because it is mobile. So progress has caused the Beduin sadness. They admit that the stone house is better than a tent, but they don't want to be told where the house should be built, who will be their neighbour and what the construction laws are. So the tent still holds an attraction," said Amos Yarkoni, who was born Abdul Majid in the Galilee and now lives in Beersheba with his family. In the 1950s, he set up and commanded a crack army unit in the Negev. Sayeret Shaked.

Some people feel strongly that the Beduin who still desire to live in the old ways, should continue to do so in a limited way in the central Negev by

setting up an agricultural community for their 200 families. But *The Post* was told that the Green Patrol is opposed to this. Danino verified this and added that there is an unequivocal decision to allow no settlements beyond the seven towns, already approved. But he had an idea for a synthesis.

"We realize that there will be some Beduin who will not easily give up their lifestyle. To find a solution to the problem of individual farmers or shepherds, we have suggested that they set up peripheral agricultural neighbourhoods on the edges of the towns, and the Beduin agree to this," Danino said.

He said the idea would be tried first in Kuseifa and Arouar, and then in the three towns now under construction. As for Tel Sheva and Rahat, which had already been completed, if people petitioned for an agricultural addition to the towns the appeals would be considered.

With this new atmosphere of promises and compromises, the clashes between the Beduin and the Green Patrol no longer make the front pages. There will no doubt still be friction for some time, but the Green Patrol seems to have mellowed with age and the Beduin seem to accept the new situation with characteristic fatalism.

This article was the last of a three-part series.

## Na'amat: 7,000 are waiting

# Would-be divorcees take on Rabbinate

By HAIM SHAPIRO

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
Iris Levy is married to a man she says is a compulsive gambler, a man who has caused her indescribable hardship and from whom she has been separated, according to the order of a rabbinical court, since 1975.

Last year, after more than 10 years of separation, during which her only connection with her spouse was an attempt to hide from his creditors, another rabbinical court told her to go back to him, to try to effect a "reconciliation."

Why was she demonstrating yesterday across from the offices of the Chief Rabbinate? "Because they're my only address for help," Levy was one of a few hundred women, at a demonstration organized by Na'amat, calling on the rabbinate to ease the burden on women who have long waited for a divorce.

In many of the cases, the *beit din* (rabbinical court) has not ruled that the husband must grant his wife a divorce. In other cases, the court has so ruled, but has failed to exert pressure on the husband to do so.

About a year ago, Levy appealed to the chief rabbis to intercede on her behalf. Since then she has heard nothing. When she calls their offices, the phone is slammed down on her, she says.

Haviva Abi-Gail, the legal adviser of Na'amat, says that there are about 7,000 women in Israel today whose husbands are refusing to divorce them. Some have waited as long as seven years, or even 20.

The situation has been made even more painful, she says, by the fact that two months ago the Chief Rabbinate ordered rabbinical marriage registrars around the country not to attach to the marriage contract the premarital agreement which Na'amat had drawn up together with experts in rabbinical law. Before

that, she said, many of the registrars had been accepting the agreements, which ensured the woman's rights in the event of a possible divorce.

According to Zalman Kvitner, aide to Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira, the problematic cases are those in which the court has not decided for a divorce. Often the courts take a long time to act, he said, because of budgetary problems which make it impossible to have a full complement of *dyanim* (judges).

Meanwhile Levy remains married against her will. Her most recent humiliation came when she had her teeth fixed and was supposed to get a rebate from National Insurance. The money went directly to her husband.

## Celebration and irritation at Creativity ceremony

By MARSHA POMERANTZ

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
TEL AVIV. - The 10 writers honoured with the Prime Minister's Creativity Prize in Tel Aviv on Monday were upstaged by the prime minister himself, who was in turn upstaged by the irate editor of a literary magazine, noisily protesting against not receiving his magazine's government subsidy.

"If I can't celebrate, no one will celebrate," screamed Yossi Kraiem, editor of *Prosa*, as the photographers turned their cameras from Shimon Peres to him. Kraiem was eventually ushered out of Writers House by police, and the dignified proceedings began.

The combination of celebration and irritation at the ceremony expressed the ambivalent relationship between Hebrew writers and the political establishment.

The writers like to bite the hand that feeds them - partly because it never feeds them enough, and partly because it's busy doing nasty things between feedings. The hand, for its part, likes to pat the political establishment on the back for supporting the arts that give meaning to mere existence.

The Prime Minister's Creativity Prize - considered the most useful of literary honours - was initiated by the late prime minister Levi Eshkol. It is awarded each year on the anniversary of his birth, in the presence of his widow, Miriam, as well as the current prime minister and the minister of education and culture.

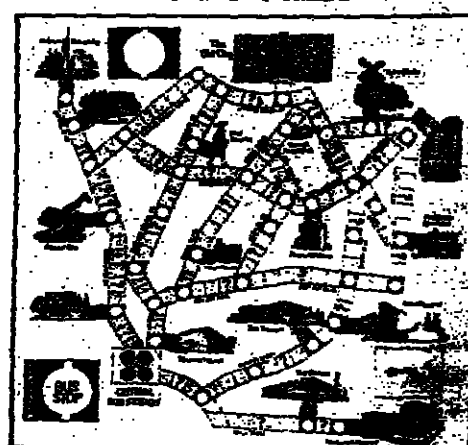
The tax-free stipend of roughly NIS 1,100 a month guarantees support for a year, provided the recipient devotes the time to writing.

Among the better-known winners this year were poet Abba Kovner, novelist columnist Yoram Kainik, poet columnist Moshe Dor, playwright Yosef Bar-Yosef and poet Maya Bejerano. Other winners were Binyamin Galai, Yehudit Kafri, Keven Meran, Yosef Sharon and Dan Shavit.

Eshkol was remembered warmly by all the speakers, and Peres received enthusiastic applause for his general record of the last two years, and for his support of literature and the arts - not that there isn't always someone in the back row snickering over carefully prepared literary references and occasional misquotes.

It was Peres, in response to fierce complaints by writers, who set up the Prime Minister's Committee to Investigate the Situation of Writers, headed by Dr. Emmanuel Sharon, director-general of the Treasury. After examining the subject for about a year, the committee recently submitted recommendations, including one to double the number of annual recipients of the prize from five to 10, which was done this week.

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## Kabbalist yeshiva's mail-a-prayer

By HAIM SHAPIRO

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
Rabbi Meir Yehuda Getz, the rabbi of the Western Wall, is a saintly figure who rises at midnight to study kabbalistic texts. It is hard to associate him with a fund-raising gimmick that allows petitioners to mail in prayers and have them placed in the cracks of the Wall.

Thus it was with a certain degree of disbelief that some TV viewers saw a news report on the gimmick and heard that the prayer mail-in brochure was being distributed by "the rabbi of the Wall." Religious Affairs Ministry officials, when asked, knew nothing about the scheme, but suggested that it was the work of one of the less reputable Jerusalem yeshivim.

It was not easy to find Getz. There was no answer to telephone calls to his office throughout yesterday. When I finally went there, late in the afternoon, a guard directed me to the Wall.

There, another guard sent me to the interior area, under Wilson's Arch, and it was here that yet another guard took me to a large barred iron door. Inside, in a cavernous, musty-smelling room, the rabbi was sitting at a table with half a dozen students, men in their 30s and 40s, pouring over a huge tome.

"These are my younger students," he said as he led me still further back through the underground passage-ways, to a place where we could talk quietly. He was indeed associated with the scheme, he said, but this was in connection with his position as the head of Beit El, a yeshiva for mystics, and not as rabbi of the Western Wall.

The yeshiva itself is small, but bears the distinction of being the oldest in Jerusalem's Old City, having been founded over 250 years ago. Its scholars included such figures as Shalom Sharabi, Haim Ibn Atar (Or Hachaim), Gershon of Kitov, brother-in-law of the Ba'al Shem Tov, and Haim David Azulai (Hida).

The building, near the Hurva Synagogue, served as one of the last bastions of the Jews in the War of Independence and was almost destroyed by the Jordanian forces. Part of the building has been restored and Getz would like to continue the process, but, as he told me, he has no idea of how to raise money.

The mail-away prayer scheme, he explained, was the work of V. Dan, a public relations figure who had had success in dealing with a family problem after prayer at the Wall. Getz did not know Dan's first name. The rabbi thought that Dan lived in Haifa.

The mail-away prayer kit includes a large card printed to resemble the stones of the wall with a cut-out opening. Inside is another card and the words "my prayer" are visible through the cut-out.

The message on the outside of the card reads: "Your prayer can be placed between the holy stones of the Western Wall, the holiest place in the history of cities - Jerusalem - for all the prayers in the world ascend to heaven through the Western Wall."

The section for the prayer has a self-sealing cover and there is a section for a reply which says: "The prayer was put between the stones of the Western Wall before the Holy of

Holies."

There is also an envelope addressed to the yeshiva and yet another card explaining the background of the institution. This card notes that in addition to heading the yeshiva, Getz "is also the rabbi in charge of the Western Wall and other holy sites adjacent to the Temple Mount."

"This is not business," Getz stressed. "It is non-profit and I have no hand in it. In fact, when they came to me from the television it was the first time I had seen it." I don't believe in *schmoring*. I don't send emissaries abroad and I see this as an honourable way of raising money.

"It's only a pity," he continued, "that Dan sells them to the shops for 90 cents and they sell them for \$4."

Getz himself has a tragic history. One son was killed during the liberation of the Wall in the Six-Day War and another was killed in an automobile accident about a month ago. His life is wrapped up in the mid-night studies to which only a few chosen scholars are admitted.

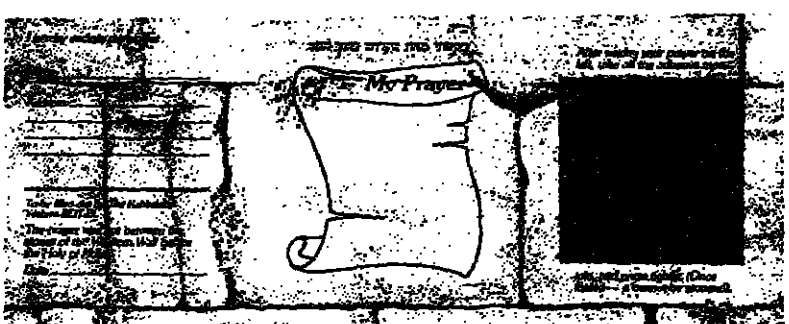
He stressed that he himself believes in the efficacy of prayers left between the stones of the Wall. "The Wall is the psychiatrist of the Jewish people," he said. That, he said, is why he had given his approval for the scheme.

He continues to have complete trust in the entrepreneur and is not sorry at having given his approval for the project, despite the adverse publicity.

Officials at the Religious Affairs Ministry are clearly embarrassed by the incident. For the moment, they will only say that they are "investigating."



**MAIL-ORDER PRAYER.** - A yeshiva for mystics, Beit El, offers Jews from around the world the opportunity to place written requests in the Western Wall without going any further than their local mail box. The pictured card provides a confidential space for prayers (below), and the yeshiva promises these will not be seen by "mortals." A record of the prayer will be "registered" at the yeshiva in Jerusalem's Old City for a year.



## Most dramatic show in Tel Aviv can be found daily at the courthouse

For every Hava Ya'ari, every widow on trial for murdering her husband, every drug dealer who makes a living as a model or a restaurateur or athlete arrested as a rapist, there's a person with a tragedy to tell, a drama to live out in the constant public bustle of Tel Aviv's courthouse.

For instance, a woman crying in a courtroom told the judge that the Social Affairs Ministry had taken her four children away from her. Knife in hand, she had gone to the social worker demanding to see the children. "I haven't seen them for six months and the social worker won't let me see them."

As the mother had a history of violence, the social worker called the police, since a few months earlier a social worker was shot to death in the north and violence in social welfare offices is almost an everyday occurrence.

"All I want is to see my children," cried the woman. The judge looked down from the bench at her. "Decision. Fifteen days lock-up."



Robert Rosenberg

"Please," she wept. "Not at Abu Kabir. Neve Tzirah. I have a bad kidney. Not Abu Kabir."

Two policemen led her out of the court, where the suspects are brought in, assembly-line fashion, for decisions about their future.

In another courtroom a security man from one of the city's top hotels was brought before a magistrate.

"I don't understand it. He makes a good living, has a good salary, a nice car. Why did he have to steal from the hotel he was hired to protect?" the prosecutor asked.

"Decision. Because the suspect's wife is abroad, 13 days remand," the judge ruled.

The security man shuffled out of the room, looking not unlike the plainclothesmen who escorted him. Tall, well-built, in T-shirt, jeans and

sneakers.

At about the same time that people were packing the courtroom where the city's major murder trial is in process, an elegant woman dabbed at her mascaraed eyes downstairs in the courthouse cafeteria.

Dressed in a black linen suit trimmed with a string of pearls, she listened as her lawyer tried to explain why the judge might rule against her. She had requested an injunction preventing her husband from entering her home.

It was difficult for anybody standing in line for a cup of coffee not to overhear the conversation. The woman told her lawyer she was wearing a long-sleeved blouse to hide the bruise marks on her arms.

In the dock of another courtroom, half-empty, stood a man wearing a kippa that kept slipping off his head.

The prosecutor explained that the suspect had tried to molest a sixth grader on his way home from school. Elsewhere, a case was being heard involving a man who had dropped a baby down a well.

The most dramatic "show" in town is anywhere in the courthouse, any day of the week when court is in session.

## Lawyers advise Sharir he may extradite Nakash

By MENACHEM SHALEV

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
Justice Ministry lawyers have informed Minister Avraham Sharir that he is not legally bound by a decision purportedly made by his predecessor, Yitzhak Moda'i, not to extradite William Nakash to France.

Nakash is wanted in France in connection with the 1983 murder of an Algerian in the city of Besancon.

The Supreme Court ruled on September 9 that Nakash is liable for extradition. But a widespread public campaign has been launched against the extradition representing Nakash as a "Jewish hero."

The justice minister must make a final decision before November 9. Sharir reportedly told a State Attorney's Office team that he has a "difficult problem" because Moda'i had informed him he had already reached a decision on Nakash's fate while serving as justice minister earlier this year.

Moda'i has denied making any such decision. He told *The Jerusalem Post* that he had phoned Sharir only to urge him "not to make a hasty decision on the matter." He said he had conveyed to Sharir "the essence

of many pleas which I have received on Nakash's behalf."

Senior Justice Ministry sources expressed "amazement" at what they described as Moda'i's attempt to influence Sharir. "Is Sharir an extension of Moda'i?" they asked.

Legal authorities argued yesterday that Sharir is not bound by any "so-called decision" made by Moda'i, nor had Moda'i authority to make a decision in the first place since the case was pending before the courts throughout his tenure.

The State Attorney's Office has presented Sharir with a legal opinion emphatically urging Nakash's extradition. But at the same time, Sharir himself has received thousands of letters and telegrams, including appeals by the two chief rabbis, urging him to reject the French extradition request.

Sharir is not expected to make any decision on Nakash before rotation next week. Well-placed legal sources believe that Sharir "wants the burden of making the decision, which is bound to be politically unpopular in one quarter or another, to fall on the shoulders of a newly-appointed justice minister."

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# Egyptian bid to steal Israel's nuclear secrets

MURAD AL-IMARI

REVELATIONS of an Egyptian spy's attempts to collect information on Israel's development of nuclear weapons were published last month in the Egyptian weekly, *Akhar Saw*. The September 3 article related the story of an intelligence man named Abdul Fatah Abdul Fadhil who began his operations in Turkey, in August 1957.

It quoted from a report by Fadhil, describing how he had received unconfirmed information, that Israel was doing research into heavy-water nuclear technology, and sought to find just how far Israel had gone in the actual manufacture of a hydrogen bomb.

In Ankara, Fadhil developed a connection with a Turkish scientist who had connections in Israel and would therefore be able to provide him with information.

"I was able to come to an agreement with 'Faust,' the code name of a Turkish chap who was acquainted with a Druse scientist working at the Israeli (Weizmann) Institute in Rehovot," Fadhil wrote. "The Druse scientist had been a classmate of Faust's in a scientific seminar held outside Israel as some stage."

The Egyptian spy related how Faust went to Israel with a Turkish tourist group, and there renewed his contact with the Druse scientist.

"He memorized all the information and conclusions he reached as a result of his conversations with his Israeli Druse friend and their scientific discussions," wrote Fadhil, adding that the Turk's only notes were a few symbols jotted down in a telephone book.

"When he returned to Turkey he was able to prepare a detailed report about his mission, containing the chemical formulas for the Israeli heavy-water project."

The information provided by Faust was complemented by intelligence obtained through another unnamed foreign visitor to Israel.

Faust, meanwhile, continued to travel to Israel at intervals in order to obtain more precise information on various scientific and technical questions posed by the Egyptians.

FADHIL ALSO described other elements of his mission to Ankara, where he was able to exploit Turkey's relatively open diplomatic and economic relationship with Israel for intelligence purposes.

Using his cover as a press attaché in Ankara and Istanbul, Fadhil made contacts with foreign journalists, local editors and "national Turkish organizations hostile to Israel." Foremost among the anti-Zionist was the "Anti-Zionist Society," chaired by a retired general, Gen. Cevat Rifat Eitelhan.

"We were able, through the anti-Zionist societies, to recruit into our service quite a number of Turkish youths who travelled to Israel," wrote Fadhil. These young men carried out "secret missions" on orders from the chief of Egyptian military intelligence.

THE SPY recalled one particularly useful association he forged.

"I remember that Abul Makrim Abdul Hai, an ex-officer in the Egyptian army, who was a member of the Moslem Brotherhood, came to Turkey... as a fugitive, fearing the implementation of an Egyptian jail sentence."

Although prosecuted in Egypt for his membership in the Brotherhood, Abdul Hai helped Fadhil make connections with the leaders of Turkey's Moslem societies, "whose members were useful to us in the work against Israel."

Fadhil also cooperated with the Egyptian military attaché in Ankara, Zakariya al-Adili, who had good contacts with Turkish Arab groups, mostly students. Through those groups, he was able to form an information network both inside and outside Turkey.

COL. MAHMOUD YOUNIS, leader of 30 men who had just changed the world's political map, spent the night of July 26, 1956, asleep in his underwear on the floor of his new office.

As he slept, politicians and generals abroad huddled to assess what many of them deemed an outrage.

On the order of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Younis and his team had carried out Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal, wresting control from the British and French. For the first time since it was built (1859-69) by the French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps, the 160-kilometre waterway was now wholly in the hands of Egypt.

Thirty years ago this month, Israel, Britain and France launched the Sinai Campaign to force Egypt to give up control of the Suez Canal.

Britain had become the largest shareholder in the canal in 1875, purchasing its interest from the Egyptian khedive.

The Convention of Constantinople signed by the major European powers in 1888 declared the canal a neutral waterway to remain open to all nations in time of peace or war. Britain became the guarantor of the canal's neutrality and management was left to the Paris-based Suez Canal Co.

After nationalization, a broad consensus in the West was that the Egyptians were incapable of running such a vital waterway and that Nasser could not be trusted to keep it open for free passage.

Chief among the sceptics was Sir Anthony Eden, the British prime minister, who told his colleagues: "The Egyptian has his thumb on our windpipe."

Early on the morning of July 27, Eden urged President Dwight D. Eisenhower to commit the United States to the fight to remove the thumb.

"Apart from the Egyptians' complete lack of technical qualifications," Eden cabled the president, "their past behaviour gives no confidence that they can be trusted to manage it with any sense of international obligation."

But Eisenhower held back. Eden, already incensed over Nasser's Arab nationalist views, was forced to turn to France and Israel for the military operation that the Egyptians still call the tripartite aggression.

The adventure ended in disgrace for Britain and France, when both the U.S. and the Soviet Union voted for a UN resolution demanding withdrawal.

Many historians agree that the Suez crisis brought an end to Eden's political career, to Britain's role as a



Anthony Eden, the British prime minister who told his colleagues: 'The Egyptian has his thumb on our windpipe,' and Gamal Abdel Nasser, who gave the signal to take the Suez Canal in a speech broadcast from Alexandria.

## The Canal seizure

William Mann in Ismailiya looks back at the nationalization of the Suez Canal 30 year ago this month

world policeman east of Suez and to the downfall two years later of France's Fourth Republic.

BUT 30 years after nationalization the Suez Canal works efficiently.

Even during a recession in shipping caused by the global oil glut, the "big ditch" is pumping around \$900 million a year into Egypt's ailing economy, averaging 65 passages a day.

This past May, the world's largest merchant ship, the 555,000-ton Greek-owned Hellenic Fos, steamed in ballast through the canal for the first time. Capt. Ali Nasr, the canal's deputy director of transit, said the operation was flawless.

Plans are under way to send through a huge self-propelled Norwegian oil exploration rig in the fall, the first transit for such a vessel, which will bring in roughly \$650,000, a record for a single transit.

In 1955, the last full year of operation by the Suez Canal Co.,

108m. tons of oil and general cargo transited the canal. The figure for 1983, the last year before oil shipments declined due to the oil glut, was 37.8m. tons, and the current pace remains around 37m. tons. The increase is due largely to a \$1.2b. canal improvement project that lets it handle all but the largest super-tankers.

A LARGE part of the waterway's success is credited to Egypt's Suez Canal Authority. It is autonomous and unburdened by the bureaucracy and obstacles facing other public institutions in Egypt.

The Egyptians say the canal was in bad shape when Younis's team took it over and he became the first chairman of the Suez Canal Authority.

The French company's 99-year concession was to have expired in 12 years, but the canal authority's Nasr said in a recent interview that the canal was "decaying one year after the other, so that at the time they were

going to give it to the (Egyptian) government it would be a wreck."

He said Younis began thinking immediately of expanding the canal's services and income. The canal authority saw the approaching super-tanker market in 1966, decided on the need to refurbish the canal and began work on February 22, 1967.

But the following June 5, the Six Day War broke out, and the wreckage of the Arab-Israeli conflict forced the closing of the canal. The Israelis were in control of its eastern bank.

A U.S.-sponsored troop disengagement agreement restored the canal to Egyptian operation in 1974, and a mainly U.S.-British salvage team spent the next 18 months clearing its channels of sunken vessels and other debris of the war.

The canal authority immediately went to work, promising to complete an improvement project in 1981. On

December 16, 1980, it was done, almost exactly on budget. Previously restricted to ships of 60,000 tons loaded, the canal now could accommodate supertankers of up to 150,000 tons loaded and 370,000 tons in ballast.

NASR, the deputy transit director who was a member of Younis's 1956 task force, said he has no doubt that a large part of Egypt's success with the canal springs from Younis himself. "He was pushing us and giving us a very good spirit to give as much as possible for our country."

Younis's reputation as a top-flight army engineer had led to his selection by Nasser as the architect of the takeover plan.

Nasser decided to nationalize the canal after U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on July 20, 1956, reneged on a promise to lend Egypt \$70m. to help build the Aswan high dam across the Nile River in southern Egypt - a dream of Nasser's.

Summoned by Nasser, Younis devised a minute-by-minute plan that would take over canal installations at Ismailia, Port Said and the Mediterranean and Suez City at the canal's southern end, as well as its Cairo offices. His plan envisioned no violence or coercion.

The administrative offices would be closed at the time, but the foreign and Egyptian technicians would be told that operations must continue as normal with one exception: communications with Paris would cease immediately.

After an elaborate scheme that got the 30 men to Ismailia undetected, Younis split them into groups of 10. He kept charge of the Ismailia segment, and he gave the groups going to Port Said and Suez City packets of envelopes that he said must guide their actions. The final envelope was to be opened at a pre-arranged signal.

The signal came from Nasser in a speech broadcast from Alexandria: the men were to move when he said "Ferdinand de Lesseps," the canal's builder.

Younis later said he heard on the radio as he took over the headquarters office in Ismailia the last words of Nasser's speech: "Now, while I am talking to you, brothers of yours, sons of Egypt, are rising up to direct the canal company and undertake its operation. Now, at this moment, they are taking over the canal company - the Egyptian Canal Company, not the foreign canal company."

After receiving reports from the other officers involved in the takeover, Younis said, he stretched out on the floor and slept well.

(Associated Press)

## Bourguiba's decline carries threat to stability in Maghreb

MICHAEL GOLDSMITH/Tunis

THE BENIGN dictatorship of President-for-life Habib Bourguiba is ending as the 83-year-old leader's health deteriorates. Some of his aides fear a power vacuum looms ahead for Tunisia.

These officials say they are concerned that a possible future struggle for Bourguiba's succession could destabilize the whole North African region and tempt intervention by Libya, Tunisia's eastern neighbour.

Bourguiba signed an agreement with Libya's Col. Muammar Gaddafi in 1974 to merge the two Arab neighbours but tore it up the day after it was signed, gaining Gaddafi's animosity.

Gaddafi has repeatedly used Libya's armed forces to intimidate Tunisia with troop movements, border incidents and minor military incursions.

Bourguiba, the nation's ailing "supreme combatant," remains unchallenged in the leadership post he has held for 30 years. Despite his visible handicaps, no politician will publicly oppose him.

Bourguiba insists he is fully in control of the government and of himself, and says he will serve for another decade. He has recently made a number of unexpected and unchallenged decisions, including the dismissal of Mohamed Mzali, his prime minister and constitutionally designated successor.

But it is widely known here that he is no longer the omnipotent and all-seeing leader portrayed by the controlled media. It is an open secret that the president is crippled by arteriosclerosis and the effects of two heart attacks, and that he has fallen under the domination of his immediate entourage, led by his 60-year-old niece, Saida Sassi.

Sassi, without political background or experience, acts as Bourguiba's nurse and adviser and plays a role in all major decisions. Bourguiba's recent repudiation of his wife of 24 years, Wassila, was widely attributed to Sassi's influence. The

two women were long known to be implacable enemies.

BOURGUIBA's new prime minister, Rachid Sfar, is slated to inherit the presidency automatically if the president dies. Sfar is reputed to be an honest and able technocrat, but he has no leadership experience and no political following.

Few Tunisians believe Sfar will one day become chief of state without a struggle, or even that he will still be prime minister when Bourguiba dies. Too many politicians - some in exile, some in jail, some in Sfar's cabinet - are ready to step into Bourguiba's shoes.

Gaddafi is known to resent Tunisia, seeing it as an outpost of Western ways and military power on his doorstep. Bourguiba's government has received more than \$1 billion in U.S. aid since French rule ended in 1956, much of it in military hardware. More has come from France, Italy and Britain.

Bourguiba imposed social and economic reforms to make Tunisia the most Westernized nation in the Arab world. He introduced family planning to the horror of male traditionalists, and encouraged Moslems to break the daylight fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. In 1974, Bourguiba became the first Arab leader openly to advocate peace with Israel.

Yet he has firmly resisted all Western pressure to relinquish his absolute power. Twice in the past eight years, leftist and fundamentalist mobs were brutally suppressed as they rioted in the streets and threatened the government.

Now, an economic crisis caused by the oil slump, harvest failures, the depressed tourist industry and Gaddafi's abrupt expulsion of 35,000 Tunisian workers from Libya has again brought widespread discontent. Tunis, a city of a million inhabitants, easily erupts into violence.

Moderate Tunisians fear that any violence by leftists or fundamental-



Col. Muammar Gaddafi and Habib Bourguiba the day they signed an agreement to merge their countries in 1974 - and a day before the Tunisian leader tore it up. (United Press International)

ists - or both - could interfere with an orderly transition after Bourguiba. So could action by the small but disciplined Tunisian Army, although the armed forces are traditionally non-political. And Gaddafi has troops lining the border and controls a pro-Libyan fifth column within Tunisia.

BUT THE main threat of destabilization, observers here say, could come from the squabbling politicians themselves.

They represent apparently irreconcilable local, regional and political interests without common purpose.

They include opposition leader Ahmed Mestiri, who advocates unrestricted, Western-style democracy; jailed former interior minister Driss Guiga, who would like to see a tough right-wing dictatorship; exiled former foreign minister Mohamed Masmoudi, who engineered the short-lived merger with Libya; exiled former economic affairs minister Ahmed Ben Salah, an admirer of the Soviet system who led an unsuccessful attempt to collectivize Tunisian farmers; and the exiled Mzali.

One politician who has quarrelled with Bourguiba but holds almost every Tunisian's respect is Habib

Bourguiba Jr., the president's 59-year-old son by his French-born first wife. He once served as his father's foreign minister, but now heads a state-owned investment bank and tells friends he has lost all interest in politics.

Yet he is the best known and least

controversial among the politicians, and has a name that rings well in Tunisian ears. Insiders speculate that he may be willing to step in to save his country from chaos or a Libyan takeover attempt in case of widespread opposition to Sfar.

(Associated Press)

## Magazine meant for Arab women

ARAB WOMEN in Israel and the territories can now enjoy their own glossy monthly magazine full of colourful ads, fashions, advice about romance and articles on the contemporary Arab woman's problems at work and at home.

The magazine, which outwardly resembles the Israeli women's journal *Al (You)*, is called *Abir*, meaning sweet fragrance or perfume.

Having published its fifth issue recently, the magazine has proved itself to be more than just a passing phenomenon. The recent edition, with 96 pages, is the largest yet.

Editor-in-Chief Atallah Najjar, 32, from the Galilee village of Arraba, says that *Abir* fills a gap in Arab society in the territories. The 8,000 subscriptions and total of 20,000 copies sold each month has demonstrated the interest in the magazine.

The magazine is not only read by women. Many men have written letters praising the new venture, and saying that they want to better understand the world of women and subjects that interest them.

ABIR HAS MADE a major effort to deal with sensitive issues for women in the Arab community - working women, divorce, love, sex, and relations with in-laws. Along with that, the monthly contains all of the standard features of a woman's magazine: fashions, love and medical advice columns, recipes and romance stories.

Najjar, who is married to a nurse, says he is aware of the current conflict in Arab attitudes towards women, and the struggle between conservatism and modernity. He has deliberately allowed his magazine to reflect Arab men and women who have varying outlooks and lifestyles.

As an advocate of full equality between the sexes, Najjar believes that women cannot just sit back and

wait for men to give them their rights, but must struggle in order to achieve them.

Likewise, he does not avoid dealing with sensitive sexual topics in the magazine's advice column, given the lack of information on the subject at home and at school.

But Najjar doesn't ignore that fact that there also are women who support the view of traditional religious figures that a woman's place is in the home under her husband's control. Thus, he has set certain limits on what will be published in the magazine, and he refrains from portraying love scenes or women in revealing bathing suits.

Najjar, an Israeli university graduate with 10 years of journalism experience, works alongside his deputy, Sana Zirik, a graduate of Hebrew University's School of Social Work, who is from the Galilee village of Ailbun.

The two Israeli Arab editors also deal with Jewish subjects. For instance, the magazine currently is running chapters excerpted from the diary of a Jewish-Israeli student.

*Abir* runs a large number of colour advertisements from Israeli and West Bank firms who are apparently aware of the market potential of the Israeli Arab and West Bank populations and thus are willing to pay the higher price for magazine advertising.

The editors, meanwhile, have adopted a policy that advertisements will take up no more than 40 per cent of the news hole. Thus, with each increase in advertising, the magazine's size also has grown.

Najjar predicts that the magazine's circulation will increase by 50 per cent in the coming months. And in line with that forecast, he plans to transform his monthly magazine into a bi-weekly on January 1.

YA'ACOV LAMDAH

## Syria's target: 'strategic balance with Israel'

DAMASCUS (Reuters). - Syria's target is to achieve a strategic balance with Israel, Syria's army Chief-of-Staff Hikmat Shehawi was quoted as saying earlier this week.

"Strategic balance with the Zionist enemy is a big national target... and a basic condition for achieving a just and lasting (Middle East) peace," he told the daily *Al-Baath* newspaper on the 13th anniversary of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Processions were held in major cities to mark this date with marchers shouting national unity slogans

as air force formations roared overhead. In a cemetery near Damascus, President Hafez Al-Assad and senior officials laid wreaths on the unknown soldier's monument.

SHEHAWI told the newspaper that Syria had gone a long way towards achieving the balance which he said was necessary for "the liberation of (Israeli) occupied Arab lands."

"There can be no peace between the strong and the weak" he was quoted as saying.

He said the 1973 war turned the Syrian army into a "developed com-

bat force which has become the Arab nation's army and the force qualified to achieve the strategic balance."

Shehawi denied United States and Israeli charges that Syria supported terrorism, saying: "What the U.S. is practicing against peoples and Israel against the Arabs are the climax of terror."

Damascus opposed terrorism but supported "people's resistance against occupation," he said.

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani

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# Stove timer is halachic solution

TECHNOLOGY HAS come to the aid of the Orthodox, helping them to observe Shabbat and the festivals while enjoying all the comforts of home.

One can cook on the festivals and Rosh Hashana, but one is not allowed to turn off the gas. Most people put a pot of water on the gas and wait for it to boil over and extinguish the flame. Then the gas may be turned off.

The Jerusalem Scientific Institute for the Solving of Halachic Problems Through Technology has developed an easier way. It is like a Shabbat timer, except that it is attached not to the stove's gas-intake valve, but to the apartment's electricity system. You preset the timer to turn off the gas when you think you'll no longer need to cook or heat up the food. (The gas can be kindled only from an existing flame, not with a struck match.)

ANOTHER INNOVATION is a new model of the Galaxy refrigerator that operates one way for weekdays and another for Shabbat. When you open the refrigerator door, it normally heats up and automatically causes the motor to turn on. Many rabbis disapprove of this on Shabbat. The new model, developed by the Jerusalem Institute, has a mechanism that keeps the refrigerator

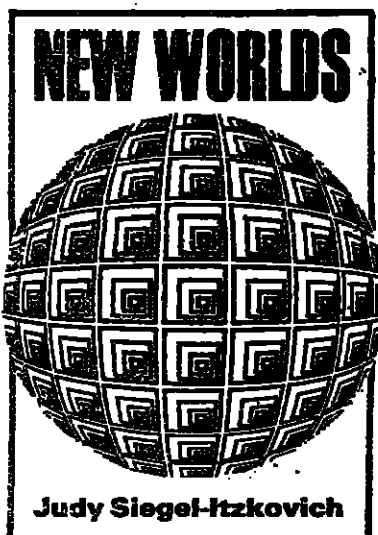
operating at a steady temperature on Shabbat, without the opening of the door affecting the motor.

THE TALK of Mea She'arim and Bnei Brak is an invention that solves a perennial problem of the Orthodox: how to keep one's skullcap on. Clips are annoying, and so are bobbypins. Russian-born American Jew, Dr. Lev Nimotin, an engineer and nuclear physicist, worked on the problem for a whole year. He adapted the idea of Velcro tape, and developed a tab of Velcro nylon that holds onto the hair but releases it without pulling.

Called *Kippa*, it sells in Israel (in Jerusalem at 21 Agrippas Street) for a rather outrageous NIS4 for a set of four tabs, good for one *kippa*. Although the tab sticks to any sort of kippa with self-adhesive, I advise sewing each one on or it will fall off in the wash. One can also transfer it from one kippa to the next with striches, something that is impossible if you use the adhesive. One caveat: if you're completely bald, it won't work.

A WAVE OF THEFTS has been driving hotels crazy. The most popular items are towels, sheets, ashtrays and even curtains.

The King Solomon Hotel in Eilat is the first to install a device to fight



sticky fingers, after calculating that losses during the first seven months of the year totalled \$35,000. It bought a metal detector priced at \$15,000 and imported from the U.S. An electromagnetic stripe is woven into fabrics or "painted" onto solid objects. If someone tries to leave the hotel with any of its property, the manager is alerted. The person is taken to a side room and confronted with the evidence. Since the device was installed in August, thefts have drastically fallen at the hotel. Other

Israeli hotels have expressed interest in the device.

AN IMPROVED sesame variety whose seed capsules all ripen simultaneously has been produced here by plant breeders at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The new variety is now being crossed with many different sesame plants from all over the world to produce improved crops for varying climatic conditions. It is also being bred with varieties that don't scatter their seed.

The researchers hope that their work will enable this important oilseed crop to assume its proper place as a major crop in advanced countries and help in the battle to improve nutrition in the underdeveloped countries.

Unlike other domesticated seed plants, the sesame — apparently the most ancient oilseed used by man — has retained characteristics for survival in the wild. As the seed capsules ripen and dry, they open and scatter their seeds. Thus direct mechanical harvesting is impossible. In addition, as each plant ripens unevenly over a long time, any single harvest date causes losses.

So sesame is cultivated mostly in countries where manual labour is cheap, such as India, Burma, the Sudan and some Mediterranean

countries. In Israel, sesame cultivation has declined drastically for this reason.

Sesame, says Prof. Amram Ashri of the HU's agriculture faculty, doesn't turn rancid as an oil and does not need special refining for salads, cooking and margarine manufacture. It also is rich in protein and can replace meat in the diet. The sesame plant even improves soil structure and can grow on stored water in the soil without irrigation.

The new crossed varieties are now being tested for stability and are being multiplied so that they can be sown commercially. Trials are being carried out in collaboration with researchers in Thailand as well as in Rehovot.

MANY mothers who spoonfeed their babies taste it first to make sure it isn't too hot. But this isn't very hygienic. A German company has patented a spoon, now imported into Israel, that turns colours depending on the temperature of the food on it.

Just dip the spoon in the hot soup or cereal, or scoop up a bit of solid food and the spoon will turn from blue (cold) to yellow (normal) and red (hot). The baby will enjoy the game as well. It costs NIS6.5 and is imported by N.G. Marketing of Petah Tikva.

THE punishment for trying to hold



Sesame seed, a staple in Middle Eastern baking and cooking, is the focus of Hebrew University researchers, who have produced a new variety of the oil-rich seed.

up a taxi driver should be the electric chair, suggests A.D.S., a company in Holon. The company doesn't mean execution, but a mild yet shocking electric jolt that the driver can turn on when someone in any of the other seats tries to attack him. The Israeli manufacturer says the

device has been approved by the Standards Institute and the shock does not endanger life. The device can also be left on when the driver is absent to prevent theft of the whole car. If the thief sits behind the wheel, he gets a jolt that persuades him to try elsewhere.

## Fetal-testing that leads to murder

WIDESPREAD sex-testing of fetuses, countless abortions and horrifying tales of female infanticide are rampant in many parts of Asia, where one of the worst tragedies that can befall a family is the birth of a baby girl.

Confucian tradition and religious taboos still weigh heavily on Asian society, despite rapid economic development and increasing sophistication of the region's products and services.

In China, the home of Confucius, the Communist government officially dismisses the centuries-old prejudice against girls as feudal.

Yet the preference for sons rather than daughters among the country's 800 million peasants is so deep-rooted that China has had to amend its one-child-family policy in some areas despite fears of a population explosion.

Last May, authorities in southern Guangdong Province announced that rural couples whose first child was a girl could be allowed to try for a son.

In South Korea, too, where ultra-

ROGER CRABB/Seoul

modern factories turn out cars and video players for the eager North American market, the government is still battling the country's Confucian legacy.

Alarmed at the growing number of abortions among women expecting baby girls, Seoul has just banned all pre-natal sex tests.

Feminist and civil rights organizations in India have petitioned their government to take a similar step, so far in vain. They say the clinics setting up shop in India's cities and towns, which offer sex tests for 500 rupees (\$40), are pandering to families who do not want a baby girl. The campaigners want New Delhi to restrict the tests to medical institutions under proper government supervision.

"We are living in a country with a strong sex bias against women," said Subhila Gopalan, general secretary of the All-India Democratic Women's Association. "The test is another cross an Indian woman has to bear."

BOTH CHINA, which has a mushrooming population of more than one billion, and India, with an even faster growing population of about 750 million, have legalized abortion as an instrument of birth control.

An estimated 8.89 million abortions were performed in China in 1984, and latest figures for India show almost two million in 1980-81.

Female infanticide — the killing of little girls after they are born — is widespread in northern India although no figures are available, Gopalan said. She said one widely used method was suffocating the baby with a wet towel.

Though China last year angrily denied allegations that infanticide was rife in rural areas, its official media do publicize individual cases.

A man from the city of Kaifeng was accused of attempting to murder his three-month-old daughter by sticking pins and bamboo splinters into her head after his wife suggested they try for a boy.

"This case shows that the attitude which honours males and despises

females is deeply rooted in the minds of a minority," *The China Health News* commented.

This attitude is still found not only in the Confucian societies of East Asia, and the Hindu communities of India, but also in Islamic Pakistan.

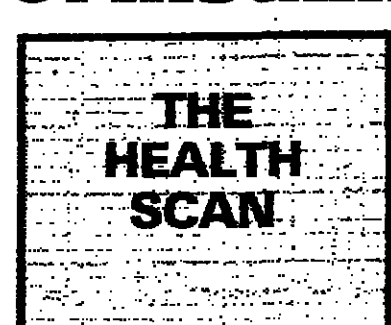
BOYS ARE preferred in Pakistan because they eventually become money-earning members of the family while women are expected to be content with the role of housewife. Country women who have failed to have sons still ask holy men for amulets or talismans to ensure a boy baby.

In contrast to neighbouring India, sex-test clinics have not come to Pakistan's cities, and abortion is banned. Local newspapers often carry reports of newborn babies being abandoned by their mothers.

Three years ago an infant left at the door of a mosque in Karachi was stoned to death after the local mullah told a crowd to kill what he called the product of the devil. No arrests were made.

(Renter)

## Progress on slow release of insulin



Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

fund commitment. Patients interested in being treated by a specific doctor can do so under Sharp, the Hadassah private medical service arrangement. Details are also available from Hadassah at (02)4-6335.

KUPAT HOLIM CLALIT boasts that 46,600 young people aged 15 to 24 joined the health fund of the Histadrut in 1985. Statistics show that this age group constitute 82 per cent of all new members last year, when 56,440 signed up. Clalit claims that no other health fund in the country can point to such figures. Since many of the new members are young couples, they added 7,500 children to the health fund's rosters as well.

ONE MIGHT have thought that a cardiac patient would be relieved that a member of his family learned how to do cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation in case of a heart attack. But

a research team at the University of California at Los Angeles were surprised to find the opposite.

The *Los Angeles Times* reports on research, conducted by Shelly Taylor, a psychologist, and Kathleen Krakap, a nursing professor. They found that high-risk cardiac patients developed strong fears when a relative studied CPR. Their explanation is that awareness that a heart attack can take place at any moment — and the possibility of dying — was increased by the knowledge that someone can try to resuscitate them.

They also found that when the relative trained to do CPR was absent from the home for a certain time, their trepidation increased, because they realized that they might have an attack while the relative was away.

The researchers do not conclude that it is thus best not to learn resuscitation. Rather, they advise psychological counselling for these heart patients with family members who can do CPR. Since psychological pressures strongly affect the physical health of cardiac sufferers, it is important to allay their fears. UCLA has bolstered its psychological counselling for heart patients and is a pioneer in the field.

IT'S NATURAL to think that if you lack sleep, because your baby keeps you up crying at night or because you are an insomniac, your ability to cope with life during the day is harmed. It ain't necessarily so, say researchers at the University of Cambridge in England.

A group of 120 British naval cadets were studied. Some of them were not allowed to sleep for several nights. In the morning they were sent to do various assignments. Those cadets who found the assignments a challenge and a source of satisfaction showed no signs of tiredness, even though they hadn't slept a wink. Those cadets given boring tasks like washing dishes or sweeping the floor complained of tiredness and difficulties in concentrating. If you like what you're doing, getting too little sleep will not affect you during the day, they concluded.

## 50-year space probe plan

THE U.S. Space Agency is considering sending a spacecraft on a 50-year voyage to try to determine the age of the universe and learn if a comet cloud surrounds the solar system.

If approved, the 160 billion kilometre mission would be the first designed to explore interstellar space, said Aden and Marjorie Meinel, astronomers and optical scientists at Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The lab runs the unmanned space exploration programme for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The proposed mission is called Tau, which stands for thousand astronomical units. An astronomical unit is the distance between the earth and sun, or about 150 million kms. The nuclear-powered Tau probe would take 50 years to travel 1,000 astronomical units. Pluto, the outermost planet, is about 5.3 billion kms from the sun.

The Tau project was conceived by JPL Director Lew Allen, former director of the U.S. National Security Agency. He asked the Meineis to organize a team to work on the idea, said laboratory spokesman Jim Doyle.

The probe might be launched between 2,000 and 2,010 at a cost of up to \$1 billion. Its major task would start 10 years after launch, when it would begin precisely measuring interstellar distances that now can only be estimated, the Meineis said.

By determining the distance to a star or galaxy, astronomers can learn how long ago the objects emitted the light being observed. Such measurements of the most distant objects in space, called quasars, "lead to the age of the universe," now estimated at roughly 20 billion years, Mrs. Meinel said.

The voyage "will contribute to the big picture of the universe by giving a truer distance scale and a truer time scale and age back to creation," she said.

Her husband said the spacecraft also will try to confirm the existence of the vast outer cloud, perhaps a trillion comets believed to enshroud

the solar system at about 7.2 trillion miles from the sun.

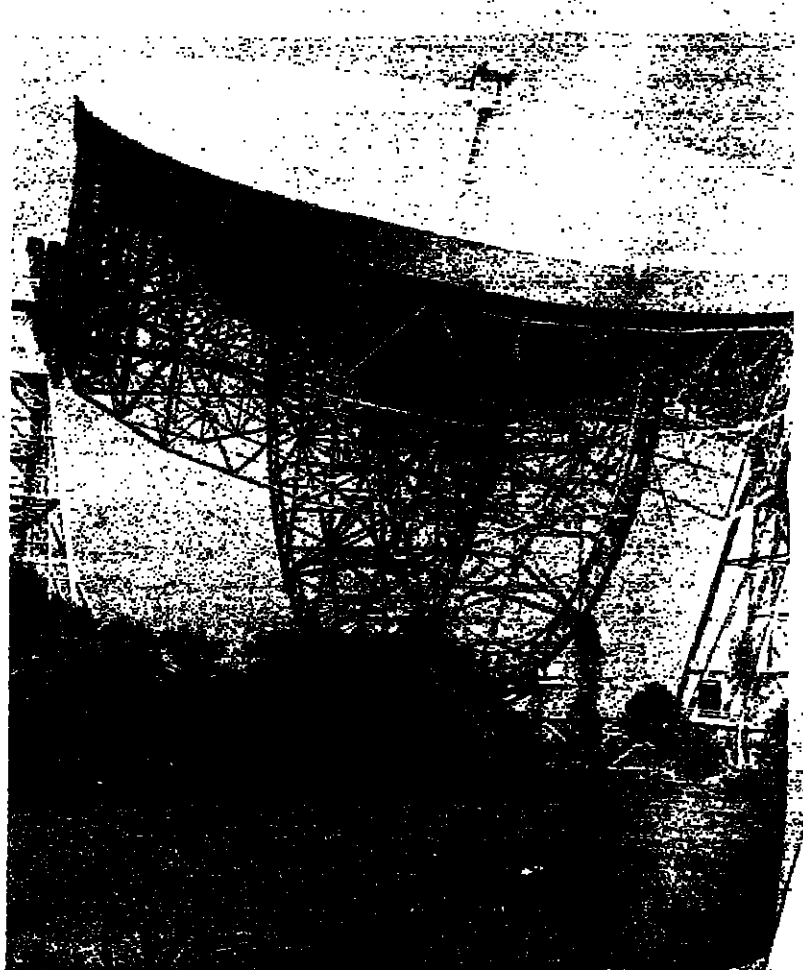
Meinel said the inner part of the oort cloud may extend to within 1.6 trillion kms from the sun. The Tau probe would travel only one-tenth that distance, but might detect the cloud as the comets pass in front of distant stars, causing a blinking effect, he said.

The probe also could look back at the solar system, a unique view that would help scientists trying to deter-

mine if there are planets orbiting distant stars, Mrs. Meinel said.

Mrs. Meinel said Tau also might search for unknown stars, study interstellar gas, dust and magnetic fields, and examine cosmic rays generated by the so-called big bang that gave birth to the universe.

The spacecraft would be powered by a nuclear reactor, which Meinel said is being developed for the Reagan administration's space-based anti-missile defence system.



Radio telescope used to study the most distant objects in space, quasars, which suggest the universe is 20 billion years old.

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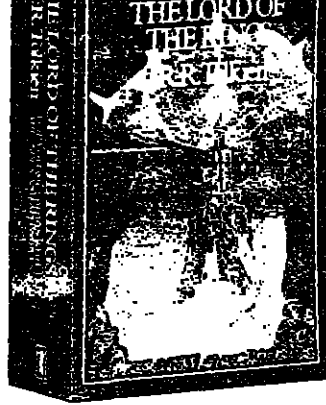
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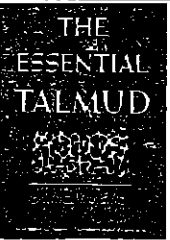
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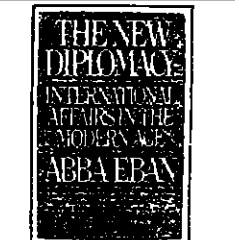
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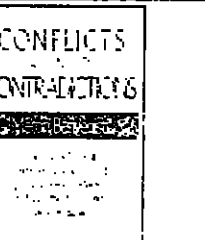
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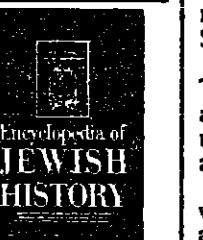
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SMASHING TENNIS. The ITC Grand Prix tournament got off to a great start yesterday. (Left) Mark Dickson relies on power in vain. (Centre) Michael Westphal's friend has eyes only for fine tennis (Right) Gilad Bloom uses finesse to achieve one of the day's major upsets.

## GRAND PRIX TENNIS

## Israelis continue their winning ways

By JACK LEON  
RAMAT HASHARON. — Israel's tennis success has not stopped at St. Gallen. Four local players had impressive wins here yesterday on the opening day of the 8th Riklis Israel Tennis Centre Grand Prix tournament.

Amos Mansdorf, fresh from his fantastic performance in the Davis Cup, was expected to win his opener comfortably, but, in the end, he had rather a tough time before winning, going through against American challenger, Larry Scott, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. Both Shahar Perkiss and Gilad Bloom had such tough opponents that neither would have been disgraced had they suffered opening round defeats. Both, however, had fine wins. Bloom's victory was particularly good. He upended the 7th seed Mark Dickson 6-2, 3-6, 6-6 in one of the two principal early upsets of what promises to be a most exciting tournament. This was the first time the 19-year-old Israeli, ranked 189th in the world, has beaten a player in the top 100. Dickson is 89 on the computer rankings.

Bloom volleyed with great skill and mixed the pace of the game cleverly to perplex a player who has wins over Lendl, Vilas, Curren, Gomez and Smid to his credit.

In the battle of the two giants (both are over 1.9 m), Perkiss got the better of another American, Chip Hooper, winning 2-6, 6-1, 6-4. Hav-

ing started shakily, Perkiss pulled himself together admirably, and then proved too steady for his powerful opponent, from whom, disappointingly, too little was seen of his booming serve, considered a few years ago to be the fastest in the game.

There was no such good fortune for another Israeli on view yesterday. Amit Naor appeared to be rather fatigued after returning home from competition in Europe early yesterday morning. He went down in straight sets 6-1, 6-4 to Polish-born Canadian national champion, Andrew Sznajder. Naor paid the price of his success in the Belgian satellite circuit, from which he had returned in good spirits after finishing as runner-up.

Another major upset was achieved by the West German player, Michael Westphal, who put out fifth seeded South African Eddie Edwards in a battle royal, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. Westphal, a former West German Davis Cup star, was inspired to give of his best by his girlfriend, who watched his match with intense concentration.

But there was joy for at least two of the ranked players, Aaron Krickstein (No. 2), who raced past another South African, Barry Mor 6-2, 6-2, and third-seeded Peter Lundgren, who whipped West German Jaronik Becka 6-1, 6-4.

Lundgren is a protégé of his com-

patriot, the great Bjorn Borg, who, although nine years his senior, often teams up with him for practice sessions. The two have also toured overseas together. Lundgren's new coach, Per Hjertquist, is an old friend of the ITC. He has played often at Ramat Hasharon in the past, finishing as runner-up to Tom Okker in 1979.

Late yesterday afternoon Peter Carlsson of Sweden achieved another upset when he beat eighth seed Danny Visser 6-3, 6-0.

## TENNIS

## 'Israel in top 5-10 in world'

By JACK LEON

HERZLIYA. — Israel is now among the top five to 10 tennis nations in the world, Davis Cup captain Yosef Stabholz told a luncheon at the Dan-Accadia here. The luncheon given by the Israel Tennis Association for the Davis Cup team, followed their promotion to the 16-nation World Group premier division last week.

Stabholz said that Israel have a fair chance of beating two-thirds of the countries in the World Group, if favoured by a home tie. He included in these countries West Germany, led by Boris Becker, and Australia.

Israel's Davis Cup hero Shlomo Glickstein told *The Jerusalem Post* later: "I am optimistic about our chances in the World group next year. We will certainly be able to put up a good show against any opponent we are drawn against."

Association chairman David Harnik said that the Israeli players and professional staff would receive a generous bonus for their great victory over Switzerland in the Davis Cup European Zone "B" final in St. Gallen, which secured Israel's promotion to the premier division for the first time.

## Israel v Romania

TEL AVIV. — Israel play their first international soccer match of the season this afternoon when they take the field against Romania at Ramat Gan. Kick-off is at 5 p.m.

Israeli fans will get their first look at schemer Daniel Brailovsky, a new immigrant from Argentina, playing in Israeli national colours for the first time.

The Romanian and Israeli teams will be announced only shortly before the game.

## Celtic consult experts over Kiev Cup tie

GLASGOW (Reuters). — Scottish soccer champions Glasgow Celtic have called in radiation experts to help them decide whether it is safe to visit the Soviet city of Kiev for next month's European Cup tie.

Celtic, drawn against Dynamo Kiev in the second round, are concerned about the venue following the nuclear disaster at nearby Chernobyl.

LONDON (AP). — Graham Turner has been named manager of fourth division Wolverhampton Wanderers just 23 days after being sacked as manager of First Division strugglers Aston Villa.

## FOOTBALL

SEATTLE (AP). — Dave Krieg threw for three touchdowns, two in an 18-second span in the third quarter, as Seattle beat San Diego 33-7 Monday on a record-breaking receiving night for the Seahawks' Steve Largent and the Chargers' Charlie Johnson.

Johnson moved past Dan Maynard to become the NFL's all-time receiving yards leader on a 29-yard pass from Dan Fouts in the third quarter. He finished with four receptions for 39 yards and now has 11,445.

It was also a banner night for Seattle's Norm Johnson, who kicked four field goals, including a 54-yarder that tied his own team record, and for Curt Warner, who ran for 142 yards in 28 carries.

But the night was most satisfying for Largent, whose touchdown capped off the Seattle lead that turned a 7-6 deficit into a 23-7 lead in 1:45. It was aided by two fumbles by San Diego's Lionel James.

One play after Johnson's record-breaking catch, Kenny Easley stripped the ball from James and Seattle recovered. Two plays later, Krieg threw the bomb to Franklin.

James fumbled the ensuing kickoff and Seattle recovered. On the next play, Krieg hit Largent for the score that made it 23-7.

## BASEBALL

## Astros — year's best kept secret

By CHARLES COOPER  
HOUSTON. — Until recently, this city has not had much to cheer about.

First came the year-long swoon in domestic crude oil prices, the lifeblood of Texas's commerce, which crippled Houston's economy.

Civic spirits temporarily perked in late spring when the hometown pro basketball team, the Rockets, made it into the finals of the NBA playoffs. Then the big bad Boston Celtics awoke to snuff that dream by defeating the Rockets in six games.

But much of the gloom has dissolved amid the euphoria surrounding the success of the National League West champions Houston Astros.

Wait, did you say the Houston Astros?

That's right. The Houston Astros, otherwise known as the baseball season's best kept secret of the year.

Paradoxically, although the Astros have put together a fine season, the U.S. media have all but conceded the National League title to the New York Mets. Considering that New York is the communications capital of the world, that is not so surprising.

Still, baseball games are won on the field and the Mets will have to get past a determined Astros club to reach the championship series. Before that happens, Houston figure to have a few things to say on that subject.

Through the years, to be a loyal Astros fan has meant having to put up with incredible frustration. Losing season followed losing season. The only thing different about Houston was their famed Astrodome. And even that has lost its aura in this age of superdome stadiums.

Ironically enough, Houston received its baseball franchise the same year (1962) that New York got the Mets. The footnote is not lost on Houston fans. Although it took the Mets only seven years to nab a World Series crown, the Astros have yet to taste the champagne.

Not that the team have not come close. In 1980, Houston defeated the Dodgers in a one-game playoff to decide the NL West. That was as far as the team got as they lost to the Philadelphia Phillies in the league championship series.

But this is a different, stronger squad than was the 1980 version. A complementary bunch of veterans and rising stars, Houston could very easily surprise the Mets. In fact, throughout the regular season the Astros battled the Mets toe-to-toe and finished with the best record against New York of any team in the league.

And don't forget, the playoffs begin in Houston's Astrodome, where the decided level has been known occasionally to shatter glass and rattle opposing pitchers' nerves.

When the Astros clinched the NL West crown on September 26, they did it in style with Mike Scott tossing a no-hitter over the Giants. Israeli-

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## SOCCER

## Mihic sets his sights on Seoul Olympics finals

By PAUL KOHN  
TEL AVIV. — "My aim is to take Israel into the Olympic Games finals in Seoul in 1988," the new national soccer team coach, Mijenko Mihic of Yugoslavia, stated at his first press conference here since taking up his job in Israel.

"I will take a good look at the Israeli players in training and in a full international against Romania, but I expect to build a new national side. I hope to find new talent in the club teams and build a team for the Olympic Games within a few months," Mihic said.

He regretted that few international matches have so far been scheduled for this season and during

1987, and expressed the hope that the Football Association would find more opponents for his squad.

Based on briefings he has received here from previous national team coach Yosef Mirimowitch and the couple of games that he has already seen, Mihic concluded he would concentrate on improving the heading of local players. "The aim is to take the game into the opponents' half," the Yugoslav coach added.

The FA has appointed Emanuel Sheffer, a former national team coach, to act as aide to Mihic. "I will do all to help the new coach to understand the mentality of Israeli players," Sheffer said. "Up to now, the approach to Israel's national team soccer has been short-sighted. We have to undertake long term plans." Sheffer told an array of FA officials and the press.

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## TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

## TELEVISION

EDUCATIONAL: 8:00 Radio News 8:03 Keep Fit 8:15 School Broadcasts 14:00 Radio News 14:03 Keep Fit 14:15 The Time Tunnel 16:00 Everman's University 16:00 Prot Butterfly 16:25 TV Game 17:00 A New Evening — live magazine  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES: 17:30 Pinocchio 18:10 Animated film ARABIC-LANGUAGE programmes: 18:30 News roundup 19:52 Literature and Culture Magazine 19:50 Health Magazine 19:30 News  
HEBREW PROGRAMMES resume at 20:00 with a news roundup 20:02 From the Movies — cinema magazine 20:30 Religion Programme 21:00 Mabat Newsweek 21:30 Mabat 22:05 Cinderella Liberty. Mark Rydell's 1978 film stars James Casn, Marsha Mason and Eli Wallach 23:5 News  
JORDAN TV (unofficial): 12:30 Cartoons 13:00 French Hour 18:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 The World's Company 21:30 Britain It or Not 22:00 News in English 22:20 Sword of Honour  
MIDDLE EAST TV (from T.A. north): 12:30 Another Life 13:00 700 Club 13:30 Shape Up 1



## Tokyo brokerages eye global market

## Japan seeks bigger financial role

By COLIN CHAPMAN  
TOKYO - In a few weeks, a group of fresh-faced young people from Britain will arrive at Tokyo's Narita Airport to embark on a new career—helping to build Japan's largest securities house into the world's biggest financial conglomerate.

They are no ordinary group, but the pick of this year's graduates from Britain's two pre-eminent universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Their new employer, Nomura Securities Ltd., plans to train them, send them to one of 28 overseas offices in 19 countries and help achieve for Japan in financial services what it has already done in much of manufacturing industry.

The increasing internationalism of Nomura may not represent particularly good news for its competitors in the global financial markets, says Yoshihisa Tabuchi, the company's president, adding that within five years he expects only half of revenue to come from Japan, compared with three-quarters at present.

There is nothing modest about Tabuchi's ambition—it is to make his company No. 1 in every area of finance. It is already capitalized at six times the size of the largest securities house in U.S., Merrill Lynch, and this year it is likely to become the world's most profitable financial institution by overhauling Citicorp, which last year reported profits of \$1.7 billion.

Nomura is not the only Japanese securities company starting to straddle the world scene. Sumitomo Bank, Japan's third largest, has just bought a \$500 million stake in Goldman Sachs, one of Wall Street's largest investment houses.

The major catalyst for the surge of change is a shift in the balance of global money power. In the past year Japan's net assets have risen from \$129b. while both the U.S. and West Germany have become net debtors, with no capital to export.

The U.S., with an expected trade deficit of nearly \$200b. and a sharply falling dollar, will obtain most of its future investment from Japan. The same is true of Europe.

But in order for Japan to flex its financial muscles abroad, there needs to be financial deregulation at home, which is now actively being encouraged by the Ministry of Finance. This is slowly freeing up financial markets to foreign competition as well as liberating management from the vast pension fund surpluses.

"What it means," says Francis Pike, for the past four years senior fund manager to the London-based Montagu Investment Management,



Dealers at the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market: Japan's finance industry hopes to follow the example of the country's manufacturers by expanding into the global market. (AFP telephoto)

(MIM). "is that Japan is going to become a much more competitive society."

"Until now, there have hardly been any takeovers. Within a few years, a very mature capital market will develop, and people will be looking very carefully at asset values, and there will be mergers and acquisitions on the same lines as in London and New York."

This will achieve what the Finance Ministry wants: to make Japanese business and industry more efficient, to increase the productive use of assets and to encourage some industries to move offshore if they can become more competitive by doing so.

so far moves towards financial deregulation have been limited. A number of foreign firms have been admitted to the Tokyo Stock Exchange—in reciprocity for Japanese houses operating in New York and London—while nine overseas banks—six from the U.S.—have been able to join the elite group of nine local trust banks which at present have the sole right to administer discretionary investment funds for corporations and pension schemes.

The trust-bank move has brought only huge costs—and therefore losses—to foreign banks that seized the opportunity of a licence. Persuading Japanese corporations to desert their traditional advisers has not been easy.

Some have opted, at least for the moment, to remain as advisers, hoping to pick up business from Japanese life insurance companies seeking to diversify their portfolios overseas.

Managing Japanese funds is tough work, particularly if you are to stay ahead of the opposition in a business where performance counts.

A typical day for MIM's Francis Pike for example began at Tokyo main line station shortly after dawn, with the early train for Nagoya, some 520 kilometres away. Most of the other businessmen on the train either slept, or stared dolefully out of the window as the pollution-blighted countryside flashed past. Pike systematically combed through an 800-page report on the impact of the new industrial ceramics upon local and world metal industries, periodically breaking off to talk cheerfully of the opportunities in the Japanese market. Despite widespread fears at the time that the Americans would take retaliatory action against Japan because of the burgeoning trade deficit.

"It's a very tough market," he said. "Japanese brokers are ramping stocks all the time, and you have to be very careful. But if Japanese exports fall, energies will be devoted to growth at home, and many domestic companies are worth watching."

In Nagoya, even more devoid of green parks and open spaces than Tokyo, there was a two-hour drive through sclerotic traffic jams that made one reflect on the wonderful opportunities ahead for road and demolition contractors, before we arrived at the plant of NGK, one of the country's major manufacturers of spark plugs and other related devices. NGK had also moved into industrial ceramics, with great efficiency in cost of production and product quality.

After the inevitable exchange of visiting cards and the serving of green tea, we were welcomed cordially by the managing director who proceeded, with the help of an interpreter, to give us a labyrinthine history of the company.

For an hour Pike questioned the company about its business and prospects. Then, the business over, it was time to inspect recent delightful examples of Noritake china, manufactured by NGK.

Then, more traffic and back to Tokyo—15 hours after the morning departure. Most people would have been ready to crumple, and it was suggested to Pike he might like a light supper.

"Unfortunately, I must dash off to a life insurance company dinner," he said, cheerfully, "but perhaps a nightcap about 12:30 after I have rung London?"

(London Observer Service)

## BANKING ON IT / Pinhas Landau

## Trimming the branches' role

The basic layout of the average Israeli bank branch has remained unaltered for the last decade. That is, until now. But, unlike the shift that took place in the 1970s, which centred on the introduction of the one-stop teller, who took the customer's instructions and handled the cash transactions, the current one is encompassing almost every department of the branch. Another, and perhaps more interesting, distinction is that this time each bank has its own ideas of what to do. The last major changes were pretty much uniform.

Speaking very broadly, there are three approaches being tried in Israeli branch banking. One is to leave things alone as much as possible, with each branch offering the widest possible range of services. Each branch will be a jack of all trades, though in fact a master of none: expertise will be in the hands of head-office personnel. The rationale is that most customers want as many as possible of their regular transactions handled by their

local branch, allowing the development of close relations with the manager and staff.

The second approach is to go to the other extreme and have most branches handle only run-of-the-mill activities. Regional centres would provide the sophisticated services that the local branches refer to them.

The third way is to try and find the middle path between these two approaches, by emphasizing the role of some departments in some branches, particularly those with a mainly business clientele, while still at least formally offering full services to everyone.

Since banks are naturally conservative institutions, the first route ought to be the most popular, but that is not proving to be the case. First International is the most fervent adherent of the status quo—which makes sense, because successful firms rarely want to change the winning formula. The formal defence offered by the bank's senior executives is that since they have a

limited network of 90-odd branches, compared with the 250-plus of the big two and the near-200 of Discount, they must seek to make each branch as self-contained and independent as possible.

The great revolution in the system is Bank Leumi, as hard as that is to believe for people who are used to regarding our oldest bank as the most staid. Leumi's new "cluster" system, which is being introduced over the coming year, will group the bank's branches into clusters of six to eight, each with a central branch that will concentrate all the upmarket work channelled to it by its satellites.

Banks Discount and Hapoalim have decided to go for the compromise path, although Discount is much further along with it than Hapoalim. Discount has introduced "Business Class" departments in some 50 branches, which was developed by the Burroughs computer company especially for banks.

(First of two parts)

## No. 2 U.S. bank mulling offer

## Takeover bid for Bankamerica

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters).—Bankamerica, the second-biggest bank company in the U.S., which has reported stunning losses because of bad loans, said it was considering a merger offer valued at over \$2 billion.

Bankamerica, which Monday said it gave its top executives lucrative severance terms to ward off unwanted takeover bids, said late Monday night it had received the offer from First Interstate Bancorp., the nation's ninth largest bank-holding company.

The news depressed the dollar on the Japanese foreign exchange market after Bankamerica shares were suspended on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Bankamerica, which shrugged off an informal friendly bid from Los Angeles-based First Interstate seven months ago, said its board authorized management to seek more in-

formation on the latest proposal.

In Tokyo, Eikoh Taira, corporate communications director of Bank of America's Tokyo branch, told a press conference Bankamerica would consider the proposal after reviewing its third-quarter earnings, expected within two weeks. In recent months, Bankamerica has been the focus of considerable speculation in light of difficulties caused by problem loans to the agriculture, energy and real estate sectors and its foreign-loan portfolio. The company reported a second-quarter loss of \$640 million due largely to a \$600m. addition to its reserve for future losses.

In March, Bankamerica fended off a takeover bid from financier Sanford Weill.

Bankamerica said the offer calls for First Interstate to exchange 0.22 First Interstate common shares and one share of a new participating

preference stock for each Bankamerica share outstanding. Bankamerica has about 154 million shares outstanding.

Initial estimates place the value of the First Interstate offer at well over \$2b.

A Bankamerica spokesman said the company's board received the offer in a letter last Friday and that the proposal was reviewed by the board at a scheduled meeting early Monday.

Beforehand, however, Bankamerica announced the appointment of a new chief financial officer and revealed a decision by the board to provide severance packages, known as "Golden Parachutes," to company President Samuel Armacost and a number of other senior officers.

The severance payments would be triggered only in the event of a hostile takeover of the company, Bankamerica said.

## WORLD BUSINESS IN BRIEF

## UAE promises to stop violation of Opec quotas

GENEVA (Reuters).—The United Arab Emirates pledged yesterday to stop exceeding its Opec oil output quota in a gesture aimed at shoring up a stopgap Opec production pact that has sharply lifted oil prices in the past month.

UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al-Otaibi told reporters when he arrived for yesterday's opening session of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries talks that his country would cut production to 950,000 barrels per day from between 1.2 and 1.3 million barrels.

The UAE, together with small producers Ecuador and Gabon, has been singled out as a violator of an August Opec accord to limit output

in September and October to around 17 million barrels daily.

After a 90-minute meeting yesterday morning, the Opec ministers agreed to split up into two committees, one to recommend new production quotas and the other to examine the cartel's pricing structure. Opec President Rikman Lukman told reporters.

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKS staged a surprise raid in currency markets yesterday to carry through a two-week-old agreement to support the dollar, reached in Glastonbury, Scotland.

The dollar rose in hectic activity as central banks of West Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark intervened to buy, just after the beginning of European trading, currency dealers in Frankfurt and London said. The dollar had dropped earlier in Tokyo on news of the

Bankamerica takeover offer (see accompanying story).

The dollar surged more than three points in the exchanges to touch a high point above 2.01 Deutschmarks as banks unloaded millions of marks to buy dollars. Banks then withdrew and trading calmed.

GERMAN LIVING COSTS rose 0.2 per cent in September from August, but were 0.4 per cent lower than in September 1985, the Federal Statistics Office said.

The office had revised provisional figures issued late last month, when it said September prices had risen 0.1 per cent in the month and were down 0.5 per cent on the year. In August prices fell 0.2 per cent in the month and were down 0.4 per cent against August last year.

It said the cost-of-living index, with a base of 1960 equalling 100, stood at 120.4 for the month of September.

## Sole searching

## Dutch can't find good wood for shoes



Wooden shoes at popular prices.

DRUNEN, Netherlands (Reuters).—Wooden shoes, as Dutch as the tulip or Gouda cheese, are not as good as they used to be and clog-makers fear a demise of one of the country's best-known industries.

There is now an acute shortage of poplar wood in the Netherlands and the supplies that are available are not suitable for manufacturing the traditional sturdy peasant clogs, the National Association of Clog Makers says.

The Netherlands produces one million real clogs annually—worn traditionally by people in rural areas to keep their feet dry as they work in muddy fields. It also produces two million so-called clogs, which are made of an inferior type of poplar, for the thriving tourist industry.

The poplar wood now available is so porous and soft it is only fit to sell as souvenirs after several applications of varnish, an association spokesman says.

He says the nation plans to conduct a formal inquiry into the nation's poplar situation. Oak and birch trees have been taking up much of the poplar's former terrain and recently planted poplars have been of an inferior fast-growing variety.

He fears that within 10 years the Netherlands may have to start using imported wood, whose higher price may force some clog-makers out of business. An alternative would be to use willowwood, but it is scarce and more expensive in the Netherlands.

The Clog Association plans to lobby the Dutch Health and Welfare Ministry at a national clog fair next month to grant a subsidy to clog-makers.

"Even for people who never spend time in the country or in the garden it would be sensible to have a clog for a couple of hours each week. It is good training for the feet," said the Clog Association spokesman.



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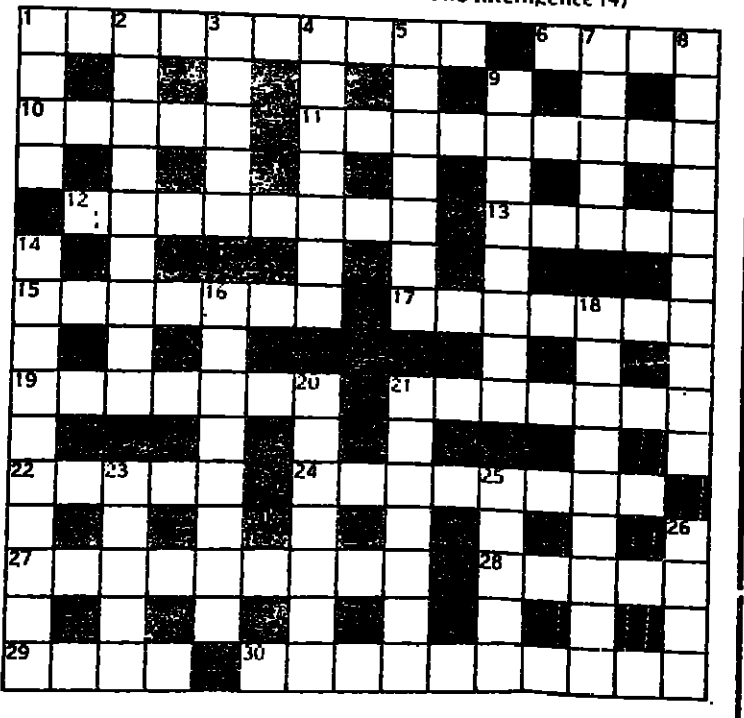
## ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 Sinister purpose of people attending an auction (10)
- 6 Sally needs the right encouragement (4)
- 10 Rover has a French name these days (5)
- 11 Possibly use about a quarter inside to be fair (9)
- 12 Covering article in favour of cutting wool (8)
- 13 To and fro, round and round it goes (5)
- 15 Speech written on an envelope (7)
- 17 A poet in back-street given old clothing (7)
- 19 Worrying dog? (7)
- 21 Well content in Wonderland (7)
- 22 Hothead in pleasant and suitable position (5)
- 24 Strange patterns always running north to south (8)
- 27 Keen worker after a cut (9)
- 28 Sound like a poet (5)
- 29 The record produced when school is over (4)
- 30 Acts concerning gratuities (10)

## DOWN

- 1 Some of the staff on duty appear caring (4)
- 2 Mean rider ordered to rest (9)
- 3 Support retired following in the country (5)
- 4 To honour debts is questionable! (7)
- 5 Eastern eccentric, close as can be (7)
- 7 A trial that's over (5)
- 8 Underworld turned course, being much troubled (10)
- 9 Gold found in animal enclosure may be kept (8)
- 14 City laundry—quite a weight (10)
- 16 Reputation is cardinal! (8)
- 18 Note price demanded for entertainment (9)
- 20 Desert people's competitive activity (3,4)
- 21 To plant for kitchen use (7)
- 23 Many quit, causing a split (5)
- 25 One's up before sunrise, being a little hollow (5)
- 26 Making four main points shows intelligence (4)



## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (pediatrics), Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, obstetrics, ophthalmology, E.N.T., Madassah Scopis (surgery, orthopedics). Tel Aviv: Rokeh (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado

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Beersheba 74767 Nahariya \*923333  
Carmiel \*988555 Netanya \*23333  
Dan Region \*781111 Petah Tikva \*923111  
Eilat 7233 Rehovot \*451333  
Hadera 22333 Rishon LeZion 942333  
Haifa \*512233 Safed 30333  
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Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours), for help call Tel Aviv, 234819, Jerusalem—245554, and Haifa 382611.

Jerusalem Institute for Drug Problems, Tel. 663828, 663902, 14 Bethlehem Rd.

The National Poison Control Centre at Rambam Hospital, phone (04) 252206, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

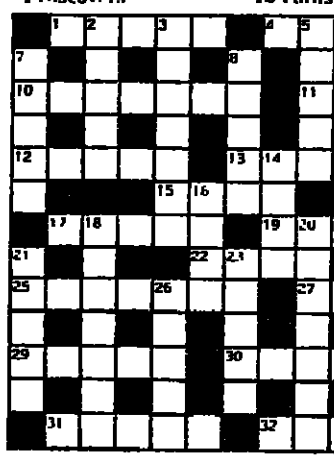
Kupat Holim Information Centre, Tel. 93-433300, 433500 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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# FEATURES

## MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

### How did IDB get around the rules?

IDB Bankholding Corp. and IDB Development Corp., for short, the Rakanati empire after the Battle of Bejski and the withdrawal from Bank Discount - have revealed a serious flaw in the reporting requirements of exchange-listed companies. In fact, they have exposed a whole range of problems, their own and others, that might now receive some overdue attention.

On Monday, IDB Bankholding and its IDB Development subsidiary published half-year results that contained no comparison with previous figures - not for the first half of 1985, as would be normal, and not for the whole of 1985, as they might have done. In response to requests from the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange for clarification of these figures, IDB promised to send a comparison with the full year results for 1985. These were expected yesterday, but apparently did not arrive.

Furthermore, the accompanying management review from each company gave almost no information as to the business developments within these enormous and widely-diversified companies, except in the most general terms possible.

In each case, however, the review noted that the profit and loss account did not include comparative figures for the first half of 1985 because of the absence of such figures "from some of the companies in the group." The balance sheets, however, were compared with the full-year balance sheets for 1985, without any further comments being made - although this is not accepted practice, and despite the obvious possibility of using the same solution for the profit and loss figures as for the balance sheet.

The issue at stake is how to present and comment on half-yearly financial figures. The government requires public companies at present that they publish their results more than once a year on an audited basis. The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, however, has additional requirements from companies whose shares are registered for trading on it. Among its rules is that listed companies publish half-year results, as well as annual ones. How to do so is clearly laid out in a separate chapter of its rule book, which includes the purpose, composition and accounting treatment of the data to be given. The exchange does not, however, demand that these half-year figures be formally audited by an outside accountant, although they must be clearly labelled "unaudited," to prevent the public being misled.

Section 2, paragraphs 3 (1) and 8 (1) are the most pertinent to the discussion of the half-year results of IDB Bankholding and its subsidiary, IDB Development, which were published on Monday and reported on this page yesterday. Paragraph 3 says a management review of the main developments in the reporting period must be attached to the summarized accounts, and that it must include (1) an analysis of the interim results, with due stress of the important differences between the interim period's results and those of the full year. The exchange also includes in its sub-section 2.2, but most basic, since it heads the list.

Paragraph 8 (1) states plainly that "the financial data in the summarized accounts for the interim period be accompanied by comparative figures for the parallel interim period in the previous year."

There can be no doubt as to what IDB ought to have done. Legally, it was not obliged to publish anything, as a listed company it was obliged to meet the exchange-imposed requirements. In practice, it fell between the stools. The reason offered, that some companies in the group had not offered comparative figures, is poorly worded but not irrelevant. IDB sources clarified that the companies in question were Clal (Israel), the conglomerate in which IDB Development holds over 25 per cent, and Discount Investment Corp., in which it holds 61 per cent, both of whose half-year reports failed to give comparisons with the first half of 1985. Furthermore, these sources said, IDB Development was unable to compare first-half 1986 with first-half 1985 because of the different accounting systems in use. This year, the Institute of Certified Accountants' Advisory Opinion 36 went into operation, making comparisons irrelevant, if not impossible.

Neither of these claims are in the least impressive. Clal, for instance, did not abide by the rules, therefore IDB Development did likewise, therefore IDB Bankholding did likewise. This sounds like a class of naughty schoolchildren caught red-handed, and all blaming each other. Anyway, Bank Hapoalim holds a bigger stake in Clal than does IDB, but they managed to put together a relevant comparison, presumably by adjusting Clal's 1985 results as best they could.

To this IDB sources replied that they did not know what Hapoalim did, or how. But, they added, Hapoalim published its annual results last April before Clal's had appeared, which they should not have done, and their accounts were forced to write a footnote about it.

Continuing the comparison with Clal, it would be useful to note Aharon Dovrat's management review for the first half of 1986. Although he ignores his company's breaking of the rules by not producing comparable first-half 1985 figures, he at least provides a punchy, terse and meaningful run-down of which companies in the group provided the profits and which the losses, what is being done about the latter and what the prospects are for the second half, as well as general group plans to raise capital in the coming months. This is a far cry from the disjointed sentences that make up the Recanati review of their companies activities to their shareholders and to the press.

The attempt to implicate Discount Investment is less acceptable, since this is a subsidiary and therefore could be instructed to obey rather than ignore the reporting rules. Dov Tadmor's unsigned review, while less comprehensive than Dovrat's, is still better than the non-review in the IDB's.

Then there is the excuse about new accounting rules. This also doesn't wash, since it was used last year by the same companies to explain why the 1985 half-year results were not being compared with those of 1984. Then there really was a switch in accounting systems, from Advisory Opinion 23 to 36. Oddly enough, everyone else in the exchange managed to survive that perfectly well and publish comparative figures. In any event, last year they got away with it, although *The Jerusalem Post* suggested at the time "despite the accounting change, some way of indicating the trend of profitability might have been found." Then, as now, however, that trend was down and therefore no incentive existed to illustrate it.

In response to *The Post's* contention that they had used the "changed accounting rules" play last year, IDB said that even without opinion 36, there were three major changes introduced in late 1985 that make the results of the January-June 1986 period not comparable with those of January-June 1985. To this, all one can say is that it is funny that everyone else has the same rules and manages to produce comparative figures if they have to.

Finally, IDB advised against taking half-year results too seriously. They are unaudited and are often reversed by developments in the second half of the year. Since IDB's own external auditor was revealed by the Bejski Commission report to

be the opposite of what one would expect a leading independent accountant to be, the fact that the half-yearly figures are unaudited may not be such a misfortune. That they might be reversed by later developments is precisely what makes them so interesting and important in the first place.

The plain truth is that the whole Discount group has a very poor record in terms of standards of reporting to shareholders, and this year's fiasco, coming in the wake of the revelations in the Bejski report of the behaviour of the managers, directors and accountants of Discount Bank and IDB Bankholding, indicates that the aversion to sharing information is very deep-seated. On the other hand, the ability of the Bank of Israel to call the tune for Bank Discount itself, in its reporting as well as regarding the composition of its board, shows that the one thing that the Recanati will not do is have a head-on clash with duly constituted authorities. This was implicit in their anti-Bejski campaign as well.

This whole incident can therefore serve as an urgent warning to the exchange, to the Securities Authority and to the Bank of Israel (which wants to extend some of its powers to bankholding companies as well as banks proper) to move rapidly to tighten up the existing laws and regulations and to demand for the rules stick. Some people just don't understand friendly persuasion.

### Israel Corp. posts slimmer profit

**Post Economics Staff**  
The Israel Corp. yesterday reported a net profit of NIS 500,000 for the first half of 1985, compared with NIS 3 million, restated in June 1986 shekels, for all of 1985.

The company attributed the downturn in profit to lower earnings from its interests in Oil Refineries Ltd., and hotels as well as from a sharp decline in orders from the Defence Ministry, which hurt other of its holdings.

However, Israel Corp. said it registered improvements in its construction-company investment and its Lighterage and Supplies Group. Lighterage cuts its losses in the January-June period to NIS 200,000 from NIS 7.2m. a year earlier.

Israel Corp. said Lighterage was able to slash its losses through improved financing and a wider scope of activities among other things.

The company noted that the Zim

Navigation Co., whose troubles were largely responsible for Israel Corp.'s NIS 12m. loss in 1984, continued to suffer in the chronic worldwide shipping slump. Israel Corp., however, wrote off its 50 per cent stake in Zim two years ago, and the company's continued losses are not counted in Israel Corp.'s books.

Nevertheless, it noted that Zim was taking measures to maintain its competitiveness.

In the coming weeks the government and the Bank of Israel will have to decide on the future of interest rate policy, the sources indicated.

While officials in the government and at the central bank privately admit that interest rates should be brought down to encourage growth and production, the Bank of Israel's stand is that the rate should remain high as long as the government fails to cut its spending.

### INFLATION

be slowed down, and that the first drafts of the reforms would be ready within two months. Then "it will be up to politicians to decide when to implement them."

The sources ascribed expected increase in the index in certain sectors to Treasury and Industry Ministry's approval in September of price increases on a wide range of goods and services. This served as signal to other sectors that they, too, could

(Continued from Page One)

Even if fears of a higher-than-expected inflation rate prove baseless, there will be no change in economic policy when Shamir takes office as prime minister, senior government sources said yesterday. "There will be no devaluation and no change in policy," the sources said, nor are there plans to impose new taxes or levies.

The sources said that the planning for capital market reform would not

### Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

#### MARKET STATISTICS

##### Indices:

General Share Index	117.08+0.08%
Non-Bank Index	148.92+1.09%
Arrangement	103.62-0.48%
Insurance	109.88-0.13%
Commerce, Services	188.32+1.42%
Real Estate	188.38+0.88%
Industrials	123.45+1.05%
Textiles	191.96+0.85%
Metals	137.41+0.33%
Electronics	87.89+1.42%
Chemicals	134.38+0.29%
Industrial Invest.	122.17+3.70%
Investment Cos.	147.35+1.89%
General Bond Index	111.04+0.24%
Index-linked Bonds	109.08+0.24%
Fully-linked	114.91+0.23%
Partially-linked	111.03+0.23%
Dollar-linked Bonds	93.88+0.13%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	109.22+0.17%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	110.12+0.21%
Long-term 5+ yrs	105.83+0.30%

##### Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 9,074,800
Arrangement	NIS 1,587,200
Non-Bank	NIS 7,507,600
Bonds - total	NIS 5,884,700
Index-linked	NIS 4,821,200
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,063,500
Treasury Bills	NIS 7,673,900

##### Share Movements:

Advances	156 (184)
of which 5%+	7 (28)
"buyers only"	7 (4)
Declines	202 (18)
of which 5%+	20 (15)
"sellers only"	1 (3)
Unchanged	117 (88)
Trading Halt	38 (90)

##### Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked	Stable/rises slightly
3% fully-linked	Stable/rises slightly

4.25% fully-linked	Stable/mixed to 2%
80% linked	Stable/rises to 1.5%
Double-linked	Stable/rises to 1.5%
Dollar-linked:	
Admon	Rises slightly
Rimon	Slightly mixed
Gilboa	Mixed to 1%
For Curr. denominated	Stable
Treasury Bills (annual yield)	18.30-19.20%

##### Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	16.57%
Union 0.1	16.14%
Discount A	16.11%
Mizrahi r.	16.54%
Hapoalim r.	16.25%
General A	16.48%
Leumi stock	16.18%
Fin. Trade 1	15.59%

#### SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	% change
------	-------	--------	----------

##### Commercial Banks

(not part of "arrangement")			
Maritime	1032	189	-
General non-arr.	2240	15	-
First Int'l	3478	1068	-1.5
FBI	4004	3222	-

##### Commercial Banks (part of "arrangement")

IDB	78550	318	-1.0
Union 0.1	58900	218	-
Discount	10110	123	-
Mizrahi	32350	405	-0.8
Hapoalim r.	53670	883	-0.5
General A	136800	91	-0.7
Leumi 0.1	34140	866	-
Fin. Trade	45780	-	-

##### Mortgage Banks

Leumi Mort. r.	5940	348	+4.1
Dev. Mort.	2940	755	+3.0
Mishkan r.	2223	324	-
Tefahot r.	13210	24	+1.0
Merav r.	5245	88	-

##### Financial Institutions

Agric C	64276	-	+5.0
Ind. Dev. DD	70173	-	-
Clal Leasing 0.1	18900	26	-3.0

##### Insurance

Arazat 0.1 r.	1060	1134	-3.6
Hassneh r.	280	33899	-
Phoenix 0.1	810	1317	-0.6
Hemleham	7313	93	-
Menorah r.	2054	90	-
Sahar	8212	220	-
Zion Hold. 1	8250	-	-

##### Trade & Services

Meir Ezra	8150	1133	-
Supersol 2	5873	821	-
Delek r.	3340	3085	+2.5
Lighterage	15000	-	+3.0
Cold Storage	1993	b.o.1	+5.0
Dan Hotels	1798	421	+1.5
Varden Hotel	2889	380	-
Hilton 1	21700	32	-0.5
Yarden 1	1730	614	-4.8

##### Real Estate, Building and Agriculture

Azura	688	9542	+1.3
Elion	no trading	-	-
Africa Int. 0.1	35050	157	+1.3
Dankin	5080	850	-4.2
Prop. & Bldg.	2815	1951	+1.4
Bay Side 0.1	3550	98	+1.3
ILDC r.	51800	71	+0.8
Risco r.	no trading	-	-
Mahdarim	7800	246	+1.8
Hadarim	1235	1505	+1.3

##### Industrials

Dukeb 5	3240	548	-
Pri-Ze 1	1543	b.o.2	+5.0
Sunfront	9490	120	+2.5
Elite	17829	403	+3.9
Adgar	504	7517	+4.1
Argaman r.	12810	100	-
Delta G 1	2750	1775	-
Maquette 1	3550	501	+0.3
Eagle 1	no trading	-	-
Polygal	3590	1087	+0.8
Schoellerline	14050	22	+2.9
Rogosin	3300	1750	+2.8
Urdan 0.1 r.	7500	65	-0.7
la. Can Co. 1	2480	1997	+5.1
Zion Cables	2102	1014	-2.9
Packer Steel	11710	14	-2.5
Elbit	34500	8	+3.6

##### Elron

Art	264000	4	-
Clal Electronics	1738	886	+0.8
Spectronix 1	1751	600	+0.1
T.A.T. 1	3300	282	-1.2
Ackerman 1	860	4174	-5.6
Agan 5	18400	58	+3.4
Alliance	2570	103	+0.7
Dexter	4508	1031	-4.3
Farilars	5280	38	-3.0
Halfa Chem.	no trading	-	-
Teve r.	6270	1243	-
Dead Sea r.	4310	1561	-
Petrochem.	553	981	-
Neca Chem.	3120	363	+4.0
Frutaron	13300	47	+0.1
Hadera Paper	22500	42	+2.5
Central Trade	7950	400	+4.7
Koor p.	522000	0	-1.5
Clal Inds.	1289	28725	+3.9

##### Investment Companies

IDB Dev. r.	4200	8203	+5.5
Elion	no trading	-	-
Ark 1	250	3139	+2.0
Gahelot	1339	-	-
Israel Corp. 1	no trading	-	-
Wolfson 1 r.	113000	-	-
Hapoalim Inv.	6100	1804	+3.4
Leumi Invest.	no trading	-	-
Discount Invest.	2380	5141	+2.4
Mizrahi Invest.	14857	15	+0.4
Clal 10	851	7043	+1.2
Landeco 0.1	8250	131	-0.8
Pama 0.1	10800	95	-

##### Oil Exploration

J.O.E. Oil Exp.	15300	40	-1.5
Paz Oil	2495	2243	+0.6

Abbreviations: b.o. buyers only; r. registered

### SOLAR DEAL

(Continued from Page One)

world fuel problems. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, attending the World Energy Conference in Cannes, has announced that a centre for testing solar-power technology is soon to be opened at Sede Boker, in the Negev.

Jimmy Pinto, director of international marketing for Luz, which employs some 300 people locally, said the agreement with SCEC was "a significant landmark in the commercial and technical development of solar power."

Solar energy has now proven itself to be a viable alternative to conven-

tional power sources, he added. Luz already has seven contracts with SCEC for solar power plants, two of them currently powering 25,000 homes in Southern California.

The company's exports now stand at around \$100 million for 1986.

But, said a spokesman, the new contract, worth in total some \$900 million, will yield another \$650m. worth of exports for Israel over the next six years.

The company is also completing feasibility studies for a solar plant in northern India and is to carry out site surveys in the Negev.

### ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

**SHEKEL INTEREST RATES**  
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	Last Updated	Tapas	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
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HAPOLIM	25.8	8-18%	10-15.75%	8-22%
DISCOUNT	21.9	8-17%	8-17%	8-17.50%
MIZRAHI	8.5	8-16%	6-15%	6-17%
FIRST INT'L	23.7	6-15%	7-17%	6-17%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.  
(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.  
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

### PATAH - FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (October 7)

	MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5.375	5.375	5.500	5.500
STG (£10,000 pounds)	9.500	9.625	9.825	9.825
DMK (100,000 marks)	3.525	3.750	3.750	3.750
SFR (50,000 francs)	3.125	3.250	3.250	3.250
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	3.375	3.250	3.250	3.250

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

### SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (October 7)

	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rates
	Buy	Sell	Buy



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10109, Telephone 521616, Telex 26121, Fax 551670, TEL AVIV 9 Rehov, Carlebach,  
4510 (114) Telephone 634441, Fax 648446 Published daily, except Saturday, in  
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## Shimon Peres's adieu

IT WAS WITH bated breath that Likud deputies and ministers were said to be awaiting Shimon Peres's valedictory address to the Knesset yesterday morning as the national unity government's first premier. With fear and trembling they were reported to face the threat of a last-minute radical policy shift away from the bipartisan consensus enshrined in the government's guidelines which the premier, as his last major act, would then ask parliament to sanction.

Were the Likud to refuse to go along, the refusal would presumably have served as an excuse for the Alignment to sink the rotation, with awesome political consequences.

Mr. Peres's carefully worded speech cannot but have put Likud minds at rest. Although the premier minced no words in describing the sorry, near catastrophic morass from which the government, under his leadership, had to lift the country but two years ago, he by and large studiously avoided giving offence to the Likud. He did not seek to commit the government under his successor, Yitzhak Shamir, to any policy departure.

In winding up the parliamentary debate on his political statement, Mr. Peres explained that, while as leader of the Alignment he favoured a territorial compromise with Jordan, he could not act on this conviction while the government of national unity was in office.

At the end of the day the duly pacified Likud joined in offering Premier Peres an overwhelming vote of endorsement.

True, Mr. Peres left no doubt that he considered his own pledge of support for the idea of an international forum on Middle East peace to be binding on the government after the rotation. But he went out of his way to make this concept — distasteful to the Likud — more palatable by not calling it by the fearful name ordinarily given it: which is conference. And he made it clear beyond the shadow of a doubt that, even if ceremoniously chaired by the Big Five, the forum would not become an instrument for imposing a peace settlement from the outside.

Indeed, the premier used the occasion to present the most lucid explanation yet of the need for such a forum to get the peace process off dead centre.

At present, he disclosed, talks are being conducted between Jordan and Israel, through Washington, on starting substantive peace negotiations. Jordan is prepared to engage this country directly in bargaining for peace, but only with the accompaniment of an international forum. That is why Israel agreed to have the forum as an accompaniment. To the best of his knowledge, Mr. Peres added, Jordan had also agreed that the forum would not have any coercive powers, nor be able to annul agreements reached between the parties directly concerned; and that actual negotiations would be carried out by committees made up of representatives of Israel and each one of its neighbours.

There could be no reason for the government under Mr. Shamir to repudiate the idea of such a forum, unless the purpose were to scuttle the hope of peace through mutual concessions.

Mr. Shamir, for his part, remains wedded to the machinery — though hardly the spirit — of the Camp David accords, which to his mind contain the assurance of a permanent Israeli hold over the territories. In a polemical thrust while answering the debate, Mr. Peres observed that it was the autonomy provided for in the accords, not the solution of the Palestinian problem within a Jordanian-Palestinian framework, which held the threat of a Palestinian state. But Mr. Shamir is entitled to his opinion in the matter.

As prime minister of the national unity government, Mr. Shamir will be barred from taking any action to annex the territories, just as Mr. Peres as premier has been prevented from broaching the territorial compromise formula. But the leader of the Likud may be able to hold up a process of negotiation with the aid of an international forum on the false ground that it stacks the cards against Israel.

This, if it happens, could not fail to trigger a government crisis.

## CRITICIZED

(Continued from Page One)

Religious Party) as minister of religious affairs. Wilner's party colleague, Charlie Biton, leapt to his defence, reading from a book by Mendeleiev, on how he and his comrades had planned the 1970 hijack of a Soviet flight. That, Biton asserted, was terrorism.

"No it wasn't, it was wonderful Zionism!" countered the NRP's Avner Shaky.

The blessing and the curse might well have been the motto for yesterday's session, though there were few blessings for Peres.

Dan Meridor, the main Likud speaker, was grudging in his praise and more concerned that Peres should not run away with all the credit for the achievements.

The economic successes had been due first and foremost to the Liberal's Yitzhak Moda'i, and more recently to his successor at the Treasury, Moshe Nissim. Meridor insisted.

The Shin Bet affair, the religious status quo, the perilous state of the development towns, the decline in morals, the rise of violence, the dangers of peace negotiations — all were raised by MKs from the right and the left, each according to party belief.

But the tone was a little different in the afternoon, when MKs were asked to approve Hammer's joining the cabinet in place of Yosef Burg, who last Friday finally submitted his resignation after 35 years of cabinet membership.

Burg sat through yesterday's session a lonely man, demoted to a back bench, though it was the one immediately behind the cabinet. From time to time, Knesset members came to shake his hand. His face grew redder and redder.

One after another, each faction had its say in congratulating him on

his achievements, but — and for many, far more importantly — also in condemning him for what he had or had not done, each again according to his own point of view. For the left it was a threnody: what had happened to the old Hapoel Hamizrachi, the old religious socialist movement, that Burg had once led. Mapam's Amira Sartani asked.

A surprisingly sentimental Shulamit Aloni (CRM) was angry at Burg's record as interior minister — he had made Israel a "shetel" she accused him, with a small town approach to immigration and nationality laws.

Hammer sat through much of his long last day as a back-bencher deep in consultation with his one-time rival, Haim Druckman, and with party colleague Avner Shaky, both in the NRP's hawkish wing.

Hammer had earlier referred to the "renascent" NRP, to whose restructuring he has devoted much of his time since leaving the last cabinet (he served as education minister under the Likud from 1977). The direction that renaissance is likely to take was clear yesterday as Gershon Shafat (Tehiya) urged him to a real rehabilitation of the NRP.

But Hammer was also warned that he would be under scrutiny from left and right.

The left warned him not to make the Religious Affairs Ministry into an instrument for the coercion of Israel's secular majority.

The right, and particularly Agudat Yisrael's Avraham Shapira, warned that more money must go to the yeshivot.

And Meir Kahane (Kach) showed a long memory for a grudge: Hammer, he said, had sponsored Jewish-Arab youth encounters as education minister. Such a man was not to be trusted with the religious affairs ministry.

# A long look at the Middle East

JOSEPH ALPHER

THE JEWISH New Year provides a convenient excuse to chronicle the starkly positive and depressingly negative aspects of strategic trends in the Middle East from Israel's point of view. The imminence of the Peres-Shamir rotation renders it almost imperative that we pause to take a long look at where the region, and Israel at its heart, are going.

First, the regional aspect. Here, ten broad trends may fairly easily be identified — so easily, that one may posit their acceptance by most strategic thinkers as embodying the gist of recent and approaching developments.

1. Middle East oil no longer commands high prices. With oil glutting world markets, this resource has ceased to function as an instrument of political blackmail by Arab countries within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This development has caused serious economic difficulties in countries like Egypt, Syria and Jordan that have been dependent on financial aid from oil-producing countries and remittances from expatriate workers in the Gulf oil states. The result could be increasing socio-economic instability. Meanwhile the Middle East arms race is slowing, as oil money to finance Arab acquisitions has disappeared.

2. Radical Islam continues to breathe fire on the region. Iran is the prime mover, but fundamentalist trends in Egypt and Tunisia threaten the thin fabric of existing democratic institutions. The anticipated oil-generated upsurge in socio-economic instability in, say, Egypt, could fan the radical flames there. Shi'ite extremism has spread from the Gulf to Lebanon, and its most chilling by-product is point number three.

3. The Iran-Iraq war, now entering its seventh year, was spawned by the threat posed by revolutionary Iran to neighbouring Iraq, with its disenfranchised Shi'ite majority, in the aftermath of Khomeini's rise to power in 1978-79.

The war probably will continue to rage as long as Islamic fanaticism rules Iran. It has already radically altered inter-Arab alliances, with Syria and Libya aiding non-Arab Iran, and Lebanon's Shi'ites increasingly recruited to the radical Islamic cause. It has also transferred the Arab threat away from Israel, but once the war ends, Israel could be confronted with huge expeditionary forces from Iraq or Iran, both of which have enlarged their armed forces massively.

4. International terrorism emanating from the Middle East has in-

creased dramatically, with no end in sight. The most significant new perpetrators are Iran and its Shi'ite proxies in Lebanon. The terror they visit upon the world has nothing to do with Israel or the Arab-Israeli conflict. Syrian and Libyan and extremist Palestinian international terrorism does, but in a reactionary sense: the more elements of peaceful coexistence that are secured between Israel and the Arabs, the more likely are the radicals to vent their frustration on the world at large, or on Egypt and Jordan.

5. Lebanon. After ten years of anarchy and internecine bloodshed, it seems safe to conclude that the

'What Sadat's trip to Jerusalem began... Iraq completed by going to war with Iran: Syria stands alone'

Land of the Cedars has ceased to function as a modern state, by any definition: no effective government or army, a virtually worthless currency, a land ruled by warlords and invaded by neighbours at their whim. In the foreseeable future the power vacuum in Lebanon will continue to breed terror and anarchy, and invite outside meddling.

6. Egypt's population explosion is uncontrollable and is taxing the country's dwindling vital resources. Mubarak needs all the American help he can get just to hold his finger in the dyke. The pessimists argue that only a social revolution as extreme as China's over the past four decades can change things. The optimists note that the Egyptians, the "Italians of the Middle East," will never go that far in any direction. The next decade will be critical.

7. Since the Six Day War, a large portion of the Arab world has increasingly come to recognize the need to coexist peacefully with Israel. The high point of this trend was the peace treaty with Egypt, but both Egypt and Israel so woefully misread each other's interpretation of peace that an alternative model of *de facto* coexistence seems increasingly preferable to Arabs and Israelis alike.

Jordan and Israel, with no treaty, produce at least as much trade, tour-

ism and mutual security (and summit meetings, however clandestine) as do Egypt and Israel, with a treaty. Israelis from the prime minister on down now visit Morocco freely, and in recent years accredited Israeli journalists (using European passports) have been admitted into Tunisia, Sudan, Jordan and even Syria.

In international conferences many Arabs no longer demonstratively shun the Israelis. In Dubai they use Israeli drip irrigation equipment. Persian Gulf princes are operated on at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem. None of this existed 20 years ago. The free flow of people, goods, impressions and ideas across the Jordan River since 1967 has contributed much to changing Israel's image in Arab eyes.

8. Syria is currently the only Arab state close to a war with Israel. What Sadat's trip to Jerusalem began in terms of isolating Syria, Iraq completed by going to war with Iran: Syria stands alone.

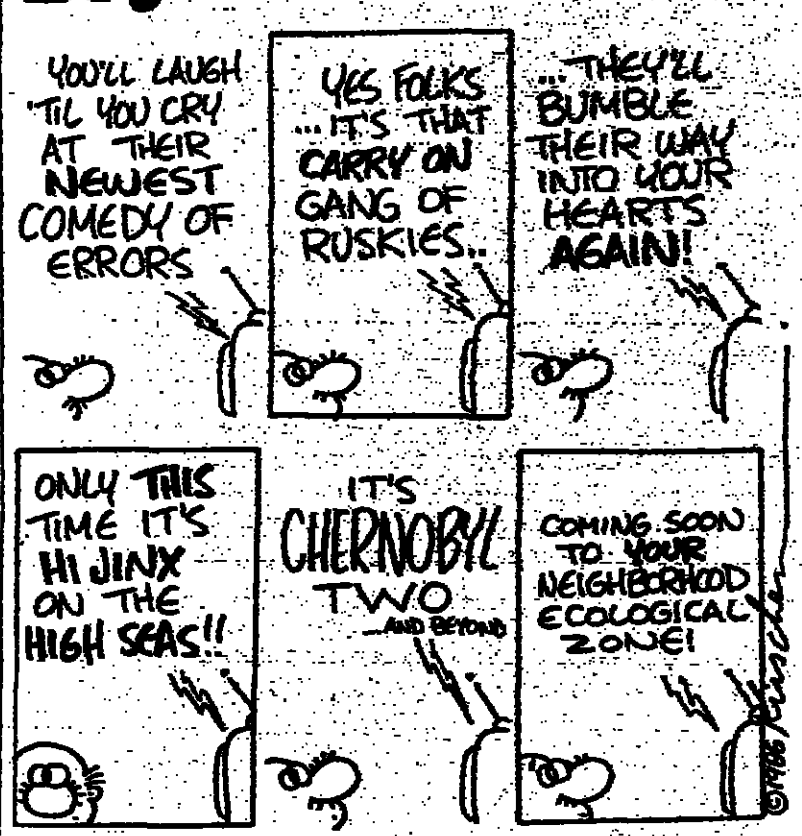
President Assad's response to his isolation has been to develop "strategic party" with Israel. He claims to be able to fight Israel on a level equivalent to that of the large Arab coalitions of the past. Assad's loneliness in the arena is a timely blessing for Israel, whose economic woes are forcing it to cut down its own military profile. If war does come on the Golan Heights, it will be characterized by a land battlefield so thoroughly saturated with forces on both sides that any genuine breakthrough will be extremely costly in human lives and military resources.

Israel should be able to rule the air, but the Syrians are accumulating a nasty collection of surface-to-surface missiles. These have been used by Iran and Iraq to terrorize the civilian populations in each other's cities, far from the battlefield.

9. There appears to be no Arab partner with whom Israel might negotiate a Palestinian settlement. The Likud tried Egypt, and Peres has more or less failed to persuade Palestinians to seriously negotiate a compromise settlement. Now that King Hussein has broken with the PLO, he might be a passive partner in making some minor progress — but no more.

This stagnation on the Arab side might not be so bad, were not the continued occupation and military rule over a million and a quarter unwilling Palestinian Arabs so damaging to Israel's social, moral and political fabric. Under the circumstances, a unilaterally imposed

## Dry Bones



autonomy — hence, some degree of physical disengagement — becomes an absolute necessity for the Israelis.

10. The American-Israeli alliance has expanded and deepened over the past few years to unprecedented economic and military dimensions. This has far-reaching, and basically positive ramifications for Israel, in the eyes of the Arabs.

But there are also nagging negative aspects: Israel's growing economic dependency and potential involvement in U.S.-USSR superpower politics. The Pollard affair and its by-products also raise the question of just how internalized the affection for Israel has become within the American system. How broad is the consensus of support? How many Pollards would it take to blow it?

BASICALLY, Israel's regional and global situation is good; certainly it is far improved compared to past years. It is to the internal Israeli sphere that we must look today for the two most troublesome strategic problems.

First, the economy. Israel's political echelon has finally come to realize that, in the long run, a sound and growing economy is as important to overall security as an army. It is said that things had to reach a state of hyper-inflation before this realization took hold. But the economy could still be sacrificed to the unbridled ambition reigning in many political circles. In this sense, the Israeli people are smarter than their leaders; the people asked for a national unity government, accepted draconian curbs in good humour, and want national unity to continue.

The second internal problem is far more intractable: how to define the face of Israel as a Jewish and Zionist state. Three very troublesome expressions of this problem have come to the fore over the past year. For one, tension between the ultra-Orthodox and the secular majority has escalated, and the moderate Orthodox appear to be caught helplessly in between.

Then too, as we have already noted, the question of what to do with the Palestinians of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip has come to be recognized as an acute internal Israeli problem. A generation of Israelis has grown up knowing only the reality of Israeli occupation and the corresponding second-class status of the Palestinians. The conquests of 1967 may have been justified, but who remembers 1967? It is no small coincidence that Israeli youth is turning to the far right for simplistic answers — the rest of the political spectrum have none at all.

Lastly, the past year has graphically brought home the abject failure of organized Zionism to carry out its most fundamental mission: aliya. The helpless (Ethiopian Jewry) and the totally dedicated (Shanarsky) do arrive. But now 100,000 South African Jews are looking to leave that country. Eighty per cent were educated in Zionist day schools, as the world Zionist establishment has been planning for this day for decades. But they are not coming to Israel. So much for the Zionist movement's education system.

Joseph Alpher is deputy head of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

## Playing cat-and-mouse requires sophistication

YA'ACOV RO'I

Israel has imposed on itself a mission to aid persecuted Jewish communities and to help bring those of

ISRAEL HAS the right and the duty to exact a price from the Soviets, in the form of a concession on Soviet Jewry. I agree with what Peres seems to be saying, and here apparently there is agreement between him and the Reagan administration, that Israel can expect little gain from Soviet participation in an international conference as far as the Middle Eastern political scene or its own security is concerned.

The problem is the manifest cynicism in using the Soviet Jewish coin to demonstrate Israel's lack of seriousness in suggesting this participation. Incidentally, this runs counter to Peres's repeated commitment to ameliorating the Soviet Jewish plight. It is likely that the desire, or need, to attain a formula that will be acceptable to President Mubarak and the U.S. has pushed the prime minister into a tight corner and resulted in statements with implications that were not carefully considered.

## READERS' LETTERS

RELIGIOUS HARMONY IN IDF

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I was more than upset over the recent outburst concerning the inability of some serving reservists to contact their families via the military telephone exchange, during the Sabbath.

The army has always been the single arena in which the religious and the non-observant have never clashed. Why the attempt to make political capital out of an incident which only reflects the basic harmony, goodwill and consideration for others that has always existed in the IDF? It is the give-and-take of all groups within the army framework that has enabled all sections of the population to serve.

Allow me to quote two incidents which reflect the true spirit of the IDF.

During the war of attrition, I was visiting a bunker near the canal. The officer in charge, non-observant, said to me: "Rabbi, I don't hold with Chief Rabbi Goren (then army chief rabbi), but I thank God for him. Without him we would be on our feet 24 hours a day every day. Because of him we do get some respite on the Sabbath."

The second incident happened two Shmitta years ago. One of my units was stationed in Ras Sudar, a few hundred kilometres from anywhere, as the initiated know. There was a religious soldier

there who was personally observing the Shmitta year. He ate no vegetables, fruit or bread from the army kitchen. The army rabbonite could, at that time, do very little to alleviate his plight. But the unit 98 per cent of whose members were non-observant, rallied round him. The first stop for every soldier going on leave from the unit was not his home, but the Shmitta shop in Be'er Brak. No one returned to the unit without a fruit, a vegetable or bread for the Shmitta observant.

That, Sir, is the kind of spirit that prevailed in the IDF and which narrow-minded politicians are in danger of undermining.

Rabbi A.H. RABINOWITZ, Former Chief Rabbi, IAF Jerusalem.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — With reference to Philip Gilon's television of September 26 about the programme of Ram Eylon on alcoholism, we would like to point out that the phone number quoted was that of the Alcoholic Centre and not of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Groups of Alcoholics Anonymous can be contacted by phoning (03)2295255.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Tel Aviv.

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